

Hafa Adai!

Ada couple invokes right not to testify.

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'Live-fire demo elsewhere is not going to convince CNMI.'

» PAGE 6

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75¢

DPL says competitive bidding now rule for expiring leases

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands will solicit proposals for public lands upon expiration of existing leases in the CNMI.

DPL Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio in a letter said "after considering all options, it is the position of this department that the best interest of the collective owners of public land are best served by conducting a global solicitation for proposals for the public land upon expiration of existing leases."

Tenorio added, "this will be the rule for any expiring leases with our government."

See DPL on Page 4

WITH SENTENCING SET FOR TODAY

Judge Wiseman receives 19 letters of support for Fitial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Prominent persons, businessmen, former government officials, family members, friends, and



Fitial

former classmates wrote letters requesting and begging Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman to impose a lenient or no prison term on former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Attorney Stephen J. Nutting, counsel for the 69-year-old Fitial, received as of yesterday at least 19 letters of support for Fitial. One letter was signed by Fitial's eight high school classmates.

See JUDGE on Page 4



SUMMER PROGRAM

The 2015 Collaborative Summer Library Program of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library kicked off yesterday. Acting library director Erlinda Naputi and her staff guide the kids to their first activity during the morning session.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Story on Page 5

Military: Pagan would be training area, not bombing range

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Contrary to what those opposed to the U.S. Department of Defense's proposed military activity in the CNMI are saying, Marine Corps Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden clarified that Pagan would



Whelden

» **Petition against military activity reaches over 113K signatures**

be used as a training area and not a bombing range.

He added that, "it's a false characterization to liken the military's use of Pagan to Farallon de Mendenilla, Vieques, or Ko'olawe"—islands in the CNMI, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii, respectively, that were used by the military as bombing ranges.

"We have demonstrated in many locations around the world how the Department of Defense is a good steward of the environment. We would be so at Pagan as well," Whelden said.

His assurance comes after the Change.org electronic petition drive launched to galvanize opposition to

See MILITARY on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

The Legislature last week recognized Juan C. Tenorio for his military service and professional achievements in the field of engineering.

» PAGE 14

BUSINESS

A tuna fleet operating in the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone became the first Chinese tuna fleet to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

» PAGE 16

NATION

South Carolina's governor declared Monday that the Confederate flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds.

» PAGE 17



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2015 Liberation Day Festival

Ada couple invokes right not to testify

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defense rested yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of Leyda I. Ada, while the prosecution did not call any rebuttal witness.

With this development, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona excused the jurors yesterday morning and directed them to come back today, Wednesday, at 9am for the closing arguments.

Attorney Mark B. Hanson, counsel for Ada, announced that the defense rested after their third and last witness, Joseph Ada Sr., father of Melvin Ada, completed his testimony.

Saipan airport upgrades get federal funding

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded five grants totaling \$3.87 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority most of which will go to improvement efforts for the Francisco C. Ada International Airport on Saipan.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in his weekly e-newsletter, said four of the grants will for the airport improvement project.

The first grant of \$1.06 million will fund the seventh and final phase of construction for a regional Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Facility.

The second grant worth \$1 million will fund the construction phase for rehabilitation of 725 feet of the existing Taxiway B and 550 feet of the existing Taxiway H needed to maintain structural integrity of the pavement.

The third grant of \$700,000 will be used for the acquisition of a replacement Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle, and the fourth grant of \$697,110 will fund the final phase of the improvement to the terminal building that are needed to improve passenger safety.

According to Sablan's newsletter, the fifth grant, worth \$420,000 will fund an update to the existing airport master plan study to show current and future needs of the Tinian International Airport. Early this month, three grants totaling \$1.4 million were also awarded to the CPA.

One award of \$420,000 will fund an update to the existing airport master plan to show current and future needs of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Rota. Two awards of \$360,000 each will be used to acquire power sweepers to remove debris from the Rota and Tinian airfields. (Joel Pinaroc)

Melvin is Leyda Ada's husband.

Leyda Ada informed the court that upon her discussion with her counsel they decided to invoke her right not to testify.

Melvin appeared in court with appointed independent counsel, Steven Pixley.

» Trial now on its next phase, closing arguments today

Pixley explained that the court appointed him yesterday morning as independent counsel for Melvin after the U.S. government served a subpoena to Melvin for the latter to testify as a rebuttal witness.

Pixley said attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Melvin in the criminal case, is currently in California and that he was not

able to reach him.

Pixley said he advised Melvin to invoke his 5th Amendment right to remain silent and not to testify.

Asked by Manglona if he is indeed invoking his right to remain silent, Melvin replied in the affirmative.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe then informed the court that the prosecution will not call any rebuttal witness.

Leyda Ada is accused of conspiring with Melvin to perpe-

trate healthcare fraud exceeding \$1.7 million.

She is on trial on charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering, money laundering, and perjury.

The original indictment charged the Ada couple with 59 counts.

Melvin is a former employee of the Commonwealth Health Center. He pleaded guilty to 56 charges for misappropriating and diverting CNMI Treasury checks made payable to a medi-

cal supplier company totaling over \$1.7 million. He is awaiting his sentencing.

Leyda Ada used to be a sales representative for Midwest Medical Supply Co. Inc., a Missouri-based company that had supplied dialysis consumables and equipment to CHC.



Manglona

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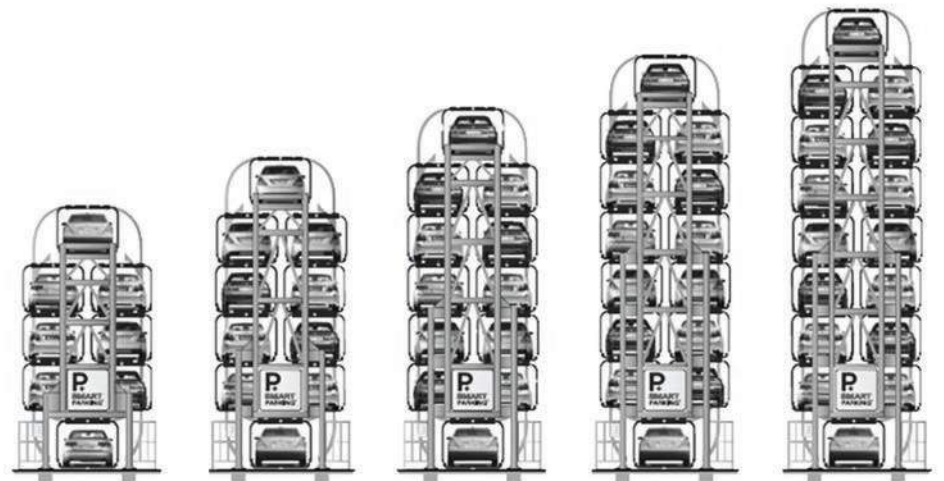
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Navy plans 'lookout' mitigation for sonar, sea training

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Navy plans to "lookout" for marine mammals during sonar and gunnery training over the next five years so they can prevent harm to them.

According to Joint Region Marianas public affairs officer Lieutenant Timothy Gorman, mitigations for the Marianas Islands Training and Testing, or MITT, activity are similar to those utilized in the Marianas Islands Range Complex, or MIRC document completed about five years ago.

The MITT appears to replace and expand on activity and mitigation from the MIRC, which was completed in 2010. Navy

activity described in this document has since been authorized.

Gorman told *Saipan Tribune* that most mitigation utilizes trained lookouts and mitigation zones.

For sonar, the ships will first power down sonar when an animal is spotted within 1,000 yards. An additional power down would occur at 500 yards, and within 200 yards the system is shut down," he explained.

For other events such as gunnery exercises, he said, a mitigation zone of predetermined size is observed to ensure no marine mammals are present.

"The exercise will not commence until the zone is clear, and events in progress will cease if a marine mammal is seen to

enter the mitigation zone," Gorman said.

These size of these mitigation zones are further detailed in the MITT impact studies available online, specifically, chapter five of the final impact document.

Effectiveness

According to these documents, personnel standing watch have multiple job responsibilities. While on duty, the Navy says, watch personnel often conduct marine species observation in addition to their primary job duties, like, aiding in navigation of a vessel, for example.

"By having one or more lookouts dedicated solely to observing the air and surface of the water during certain training

and testing activities, the Navy increases the likelihood that marine species will be detected," the Navy states.

According to the Navy, the number of training and testing activities involve multiple vessels and aircraft, thereby increasing the cumulative number of lookouts or watch personnel that could potentially be present during a given activity.

But they conceded that while using lookouts is expected to increase the likelihood that marine species will be detected at the surface of the water, "it is unlikely that using lookouts will be able to help avoid impacts on all species entirely due to the inherent limitations of sighting marine mammals

and sea turtles."

The Navy says the probability of visually detecting a marine animal is dependent upon two things: an animal must be present in an area to be seen, and an animal that is present in the area of observation must be positioned or behaving in a way that will allow for a visual detection.

"For example, an animal may not be visually detectable if it is swimming entirely under the water at a relatively far distance from a boat. Second, the observer must perceive the animal

when the animal is in a position to be detected," the Navy explains.

To gauge the effectiveness of these lookouts, the Navy in 2010, contracted researchers from Australia develop data collection protocols which were used to train Navy personnel.

Beginning that same year, the trained Navy marine mammal observers collected data during field trials. The Navy called these first studies their "proof of concept" phase where they refined their methods.

JUDGE

From Page 1

Nutting filed the letters in court.

This afternoon, Wednesday, it will be known whether Fitial will get a prison term or not for his conviction to the offenses of misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of services.

Fitial's fate will be at the mercy of Wiseman who will conduct the sentencing at 1:30pm.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose R. Lifofoi, who was among the letter writers, said Fitial has spent a lifetime of devotion to the CNMI and had built a legacy to be proud of, but that unfortunately his impressive legacy has been tarnished both as a result of the impeachment proceedings in 2013, and now these criminal proceedings.

"Ben has been punished and suffered enough. He does not deserve to be further kicked, now that he is down," Lifofoi said, adding that Fitial should be allowed to serve his remaining days with his family, friends, and loved ones.

Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho said it is his belief that Fitial's resignation as governor, together with his decision to forego his right to a trial, demonstrates his willingness to admit wrongdoing and accept responsibility for his actions.

Camacho said he prays that the court tempers its judgment with fairness.

"Consider that for all the shortcomings he had admitted to, the former governor still accomplished great deeds, generated great enthusiasms, and practiced great devotions," Camacho said. The Bishop Emeritus, however, did not specifically mention a sentence term.

Saipan former mayor Marian DLG. Tudela said Fitial is her classmate at Mt. Carmel School for the class of 1964 and that in all these years she enjoyed her friendship with the former governor.

Tudela said as speaker of the 3rd, 12th, and 14th legislatures and a two-term governor, Fitial was instrumental in leading and creating the necessary business environment and fervor to build and grow the CNMI economy during the most difficult financial crisis.

Tudela said Wiseman's respect for the people and Com-

monwealth as associate judge "means a lot to all of us indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians," she said.

Attorney James R. Stump, former legal counsel for Fitial, said the current problems facing Fitial are a result of a lapse in judgment, but are not reflective of his overall character and lifelong commitment to the community.

"Parties demanding significant penalties in this matter seem to be seeking revenge or to gain satisfaction from inflicting harm upon others rather than to achieve any objective of justice," Stump said.

Businessman J.M. Guerrero said given the many accomplishments Fitial has made, the scales of justice tip strongly in Fitial's favor, over the few misdeeds for which he now stands charged.

"I understand Ben has admitted to the crimes he stands charged and has thrown himself on the mercy of the court. He deserves the mercy he seeks," Guerrero said.

Nutting is recommending no prison term. He said if the court determines a term of imprisonment be imposed, that it be suspended sentence in its entirety, on the condition that Fitial pay an appropriate fine, and restitution to for any loss to the government which might be proven for the crimes he now stands to answer for.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback, who is prosecuting the case, recommends that the court slap Fitial with a two-year imprisonment with no parole.

Chief prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas recommends a sentence of more than a year in prison.

The offense of misconduct in public office refers to the time when Fitial had his masseuse—a female Chinese who was at that time a federal prisoner at the Department of Corrections—temporarily released so she could massage him at his house on Jan. 8, 2010.

The conspiracy to commit theft of services refers to Fitial's role in former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's efforts to evade lawful service of process during his departure from the Commonwealth at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on Aug. 3 or 4, 2012.

Fitial pleaded guilty to the two charges.

Voting for Queen of the World Texter's Choice to start

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Bayani Association's Queen of the World Beauty Pageant will be starting its Texter's Choice program tomorrow.

Through IT&E, supporters can vote for their favorite candidate who will then be given the Texter's Choice award.

"You can show your support

to all the candidates by texting their names and send to 7473 (RISE)" Bayani Association said.

Candidates are Cris, Laura, Berta, Jolly, Shine, Rica, Georgia, Macy, Nestea, Tammy, Shake, Joan, Babes, and Anne.

The winner of the Texter's Choice award will be receiving a 10.1-inch Samsung Galaxy Tab2.

Each vote cost \$0.25. Text

votes are open until July 17, Friday at 12 noon. Questions about the texting process may be asked to IT&E marketing coordinator Natasha Tomokane at 783-1500.

The Queen of the World Beauty Pageant will be held at the Royal Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort on July 18 from 6pm to 10pm. Tickets are sold for \$10 each and are entitled for

raffle draws.

According to the association, they are still looking for more sponsors or donors.

"Those who wish to donate monetary/in-kind please call Bayani president Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, event coordinator Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, or director Ernie Molina at 789-8212," Bayani said.

DPL

From Page 1

Tenorio's letter was addressed to Yoshihiro Kitami, president of Mariana Resort & Spa, a copy of which was provided to media.

The resort's long-term lease with the government is set to expire in about two years.

"Consistent with our fiduciary duty, we will solicit proposals, and award leases based on competitive proposals received and evaluated by the Department of Public Lands and appropriate CNMI government agencies as proposing the highest value to DPL," Tenorio also said.

He also said he believes "the governor concurs with this position."

Tenorio said the DPL will be preparing a comprehensive "scope of work" and "instructions to proposers to use as its guide in requesting interested

firms to submit proposals in the near future, well ahead of expiration of your lease."

"In due time, DPL will officially announce this request for proposal in a number of local and global newspapers and other publications as appropriate. You will be invited to participate and compete for a new lease as the time comes," he said.

Next move

"We are not happy," Gloria Cavanagh, Mariana Resort & Spa general manager said, after confirming that they indeed got the DPL letter.

In an interview, she said she is set to hold discussions with the company's legal counsel before drafting an official response.

She said discussions will also be held immediately with other resort executives, some of whom are currently off-island.

Cavanagh, who is also the chair of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Is-

lands, said the resort will then take a position and answer the DPL letter.

Press Secretary Ivan Blanco, meanwhile, confirmed that the DPL secretary and Gov. Eloy S. Inos "have been discussing" the leases for quite some time now.

"There were discussion between the DPL, the governor, and the HANMI's legal counsel," Blanco said, adding that the HANMI's legal counsel have yet to inform the governor of what their position is on the leases.

Alternatives

Back in March, Tenorio recommended "alternative" leasing agreements with hotels with expiring public land leases.

One possibility is to allow the hotels to get an extension on a portion of the public land that they are leasing now. However, this alternative agreement will entail legislative approval.

Another alternative leasing agreement Tenorio suggested is

MILITARY

From Page 1

the military's plan on Pagan and Tinian is said to have reached 113,821 signatures as of yesterday, June 23, 2015.

The MARFORPAC executive director said the CNMI has nothing to worry about as far as the military bombing Pagan is concerned.

He said the military's preferred alternative, published in the CNMI Joint Military Training Plan Environmental Impact Statement draft, dropped the live-fire area in

the middle of Pagan.

"Why did we do this? [It's] because we listened to the people about impacts to the environment. We have also consistently said that the high hazard impact area would be limited to the volcanic area in the north, thereby protecting and preserving fauna and flora in the isthmus and in the south," he said.

Whelden said that the military would look for opportunities for co-existence during the limited 16 weeks per year that the military would be on Pagan.

"We need an understanding of what the CNMI concerns are;

as well as the CNMI's vision for Pagan; then—through dialogue—the DoD can determine how those might be addressed in ways that could be beneficial for both sides," he said.

"My team is meeting with the Department of Public Lands and the Commonwealth Ports Authority this week to discuss the existing lease on Tinian. I mentioned to [Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A.] Tenorio last week that I will ask them to schedule with him a first ad-hoc meeting to address Pagan," he added.

In regards to DPL's planned trip to Pagan, Whelden thinks

there would be some benefit for his team to accompany Tenorio to the island so they can better understand the CNMI's aspirations for Pagan as well as the CNMI understanding the limitations and care of the military's planned use of Pagan.

"It's time to take the next step, by opening the dialogue to find out how we can both benefit by the DoD's use (for training) of an island we recognize has special significance to the people of the CNMI. There is no commitment made by sitting down and talking. We may just learn that there are benefits to both sides," he said.

Chamber seeking professionals to analyze economic impact of CJMT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is seeking professionals to compile an analysis of the economic impact of the CNMI Joint Military Training proposals for the islands of Tinian and Pagan.

In a release, the chamber said they are seeking the services of those with experience in the fields of economics and finance.

According to SCC president Alex Sablan, they want to look

into the economic benefits as well as the negative impacts of military presence in the islands.

"We're going to do our own kind of review of the environmental impact statement but we also want to address the potential economic pros and cons," Sablan said.

"We want to address the economic impact to the CNMI based on the current proposals,"

he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan also said they want to look at the numbers of how the military training will impact tourism as well as ecotourism.

Other economic factors that should be taken into account include natural resources, extraction-based industries, proceeds from potential land leases and negative and positive impacts from increased

military personnel and facilities in the CNMI.

"We're looking for that firm to address these concerns of the CNMI and of the Chamber and give us a report based on a review of these," Sablan said.

According to Sablan, the board of directors will also be working on the report.

He added that their report should be completed by the end of July for the Chamber board's

approval and review of its members before the Aug. 4 deadline for public comments of the U.S. military.

Interested parties should contact SCC's executive director at 234-7150 or executive@saipan-chamber.com.

Repositioning views

In 2013, the Chamber board took the position that they "do not oppose the military use of

the Northern Islands, as long as said use does not interfere with the development of private business in the islands."

At the Chamber's meeting last May, Sablan announced that they will be repositioning this view on the U.S. military's plans for the CNMI.

He noted that the board's original position was "too simplistic" at the time when they did not have the information from the CJMT EIS document which was released in April. *(Frauline S. Villanueva)*

JKPL's summer program starts

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the CNMI's state library, kicked off its summer reading program yesterday.

Around 150 kids attended the first whole day of the 12-day Collaborative Summer Library Program.

"The importance of the summer program is to try to capture the kids during their summer break to make sure that we keep them reading, keep them occupied with activities that we think will help them for the next school year," acting library director Erlinda Naputi said.

This year, the program's theme is "Every Hero Has a Story" and focuses on everyday heroes in the community.

For the first day, Interpretive Ranger Kyle Podziewski of the American Memorial Park spent time with the kids.

The morning sessions of the summer reading program are for children age 6 to 8, while the afternoon sessions are for children who are 9 to 12 years old.

According to Naputi, 75 signed up for the 9:30am to 12:30pm sessions, while 70 will be attending the 1pm to 3pm sessions.

The program includes read-aloud and craft day on Tuesdays, computer day on Wednesdays, special guest day on Thursdays, and movie day on Fridays.

Other program activities are group games, physical challenges, art projects, science and engineering experiments, and independent reading challenges.

Registration for the program is free and includes breakfast and lunch for the kids.

Naputi hopes that through the summer program, the kids will remember something about the library.

"[I hope the kids will have] something to keep them coming back," Naputi said.

"We want to leave an impression with the kids that the library is here and this is their public library," she added. *(Frauline S. Villanueva)*

CDA waits to hear from GIAA on proposed auction of Freedom Air assets

The Commonwealth Development Authority is still waiting a response from the Guam Airport International Authority on a proposed auction of Freedom Air assets in the Guam airport hangar.

In April, the CDA board voted to foreclose on liens on any and all properties and aircraft of Freedom Air, a defunct airline that used to fly in Guam and the CNMI.

Freedom Air's Cessna 207, Sherpa Cargo, and Piper airplanes are among the properties at the Guam airport. CDA has expressed interest in working with the Guam airport in the auction of these assets.

CDA loan manager Oscar Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that they have made the determination to auction but are just waiting reply from the Guam airport authority.

He said they hope this reply would entail the "how's" and date of the proposed auction, or

if they would put it to newspapers and advertise, for example.

Camacho said a letter was sent more than a couple of weeks ago. They are still waiting reply. He said he could not disclose further details.

In April, the CDA board's decision to foreclose came amid competing interest by the Guam International Airport Authority for the airline's assets in its premises.

That same month, *Saipan Tribune* revealed that the Guam airport had found CDA's lien to Freedom Air assets to be imperfect, because GIAA said they had not perfected their security interests in these assets.

GIAA said CDA did not file a financial statement, or UCC filing, with the Guam Revenue and Tax, and by doing so, rendered their security fil-

ings with the Federal Aviation Administration moot, because state law determines lien priorities, GIAA said.

GIAA now believes it has lien priority over CDA. These assets are estimated by CDA—if auctioned—to be enough to cover the outstanding debt plus interest Freedom Air owes CDA, or some \$1.3 million. *(Dennis B. Chan)*

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Put fabot hånão para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CCR-2014.pdf> para u ma'atan hãfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2014 yan para un tung'u mäs put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manimpottãnti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuáldát i hanum magimin.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matranslãda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hãyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian pãppit u ma'entrega pat mana'hånão guatu para hãgu, put fabot ågang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

'Live-fire demo elsewhere is not going to convince CNMI'

Witnessing "live-fire" exercises outside the Commonwealth is not likely to change the opinion of CNMI lawmakers when it comes to these military exercises.

The idea was broached when representatives of the U.S. Department of Defense recently met with CNMI lawmakers to further discuss proposed military

activities on Tinian and Pagan.

During the said meeting, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) inquired on how the military can really show lawmakers the effect of live-fire exercises.

Craig Whelden, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific executive director, said the DoD can arrange

for CNMI lawmakers to witness live-fire in Hawaii, because it is unlikely that the military will be allowed to conduct such demo on Tinian or Pagan.

But Deleon Guerrero said inviting lawmakers to witness live-fire in another place "will not be the same" as witnessing it in the CNMI.

"Witnessing it (live-fire exercises) taking place somewhere else is not going to convince us," the House speaker said.

Deleon Guerrero said the reason for this is the wind condition, sound, distance, and pollution should be considered during the demo.

The lawmaker said there are

unexploded ordnance in the Commonwealth and perhaps the military can "use" these ordnance to simulate a "live-fire" exercise.

"We explode ordnance here on Saipan. After an unexploded ordnance is found, we bring it to Marpi. What if they do the same thing on Tinian? Why can't they at least start with that?" Deleon Guerrero said.

He said a live-fire demo will not just show lawmakers but also members of the community the effects of live-fire training.

Deleon Guerrero also said the military might be hesitant to conduct live-fire demo on the Commonwealth because it "would be another process" that they need to undergo and that it might be "too much of a hassle" to the military. *(Joel Pinaroc)*

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SHEFA: Deadline for supporting docs nears

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Applicants for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance only have a week to submit supporting documents, according to SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa.

Applications are due on July 1 and supporting documents are due on Sept. 30.

"Supporting documents have to be complete upon submission," Rasa said.

Also SHEFA scholars who recently graduated need to submit a copy of their degree, an official transcript, SHEFA graduate form, and Employment Verification Form. The graduate form and verification form can be downloaded at www.saipan-shefa.net.

SHEFA recipients have three months after graduating or non-enrollment to submit the documents for compliance purposes. Threat of legal action face those who fail to

comply with this rule.

"Also, all SHEFA announcements such as dates for release of award (batches), deadlines, scholarship/employment opportunities can also be found on our Facebook page. Just search SHEFA," she said.

For more information, call SHEFA at 233-5995 or email at contact@saipanshefa.net.

The CNMI Scholarship Office said its own deadline for Fall 2015 applications is July 1, while supporting documents are also due on Sept. 30.

Awards notification will be given though email from August to November, while disbursement of scholarship awards is from September to December, according to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

They will also be accepting Winter and Spring 2016 applications on Oct. 1 and application deadline is on Dec. 15 2015 and supporting documents deadline is next year Feb. 28, 2016.

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<p>JULY 16</p> <p>Rota at Sinapalo Elementary School</p> <p>9AM-2PM</p>	<p>AUGUST 10</p> <p>Saipan at Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria & on Tinian at the Tinian Jr. Sr. High School Library</p> <p>8AM-3PM</p>	<p>AUGUST 11</p> <p>Rota at Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School</p> <p>9AM-2PM</p>

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BSI assesses estimated traffic flows from casino resort

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Best Sunshine International, Ltd., through a consulting agency, has explored improvements to the oft-congested traffic intersection of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Road.

The intersection, near Best Sunshine’s proposed 14-story casino resort, is estimated to generate an average delay of

18.5 seconds for traffic during its noon peak hour, and 33.5 seconds of delay during the “PM” peak, according to consultants MVA Systra Group.

These estimates, from a traffic study report, were generated to account for the influence of traffic Best Sunshine’s resort on the immediate area of influence around its resort. It accounts for estimated hourly “casino and hotel trip rates” out and into the casino resort, and was com-

pleted as part of Best Sunshine’s major siting permit application.

In the traffic study report, the consultants explored two intersection improvement options with the aim to shorten the average delay at the intersection.

For option one, it was proposed to change the intersection control method from priority to signal control.

For option two, the signal control was enhanced with an extra northbound traffic lane at

the intersection.

The consultants estimated that with the signals at the intersection, average delays would be 25.1 seconds at noon, and 26.8 seconds in the PM.

With signals plus a wider intersection, the consultants tallied up a 24.5 second delay for the noon peak, and 26.2 average delay for the PM peak.

“With improvement schemes (either Option 1 or 2) in place, it is envisaged that the average

delay at the intersection could be improved from some 33 seconds to around 26 seconds during the PM peak,” MVA Systra Group writes.

“During noon peak, the average delays for both Options 1 and 2 is envisaged to be slightly increased by 6 to 7 seconds from the case of no improvement. This is due to the fact that the traffic movements at the intersection would generally experience a longer waiting time resulting from the use of the traffic light,” the group notes.

The report also looked at traffic at the Beach Road/ Micro Beach Road intersection and the Beach Road/ Garapan Street intersections as well as the Beach Road/Cpl. Derence Jack Rd. intersection

Taking the total magnitude

of incoming and outgoing traffic at these intersections, the traffic flow of the casino resort will “only account for less than 5 percent to 15 percent of the total traffic at these intersections,” the group concludes.

The group said, as traffic goes further outside the study area, traffic flow of the casino resort would further disperse at various intersections of the Garapan tourist district. The group said the traffic flows of the proposed development expected at these intersections would become lesser as they disperse further away from the study area. “Hence, the traffic impact of the development traffic on intersections outside of the area would be insignificant comparing with the background traffic flow of the intersections,” the group concludes.

Apatang: Animal shelter volunteers a big help

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said that volunteers for Saipan’s animal shelter have been a big help to his office and that the dog control program is improving.

“They are very helpful to our staff, they are always there helping, cleaning, walking the dogs, and it’s a great opportunity. We are very thankful for that,” Apatang said.

Jason Hudy, leading the volunteer program for the group

Saipan Cares for Animals, said that there are more than 50 volunteers willing to step up and become interested in helping care for the animals.

Hudy said that they have set up programs at the shelter such as adoption, fostering, and outreach.

“The most immediate place to help is volunteering at the shelter,” Hudy said.

Apatang said that the volunteer program had started two

weeks ago at the shelter. However, the volunteers were also a part of the dog sterilization services held by Animal Balance, Humane Society International, and Humane Society of U.S in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor’s Office.

The shelter is open from 9am to 11:30am and 4pm to 6pm each day for the volunteers to come in and take care, walk, and love the dogs, according to Hudy.

“Every dog was walked and so much cleaning and organization took place... We have kittens that are in need of fostering...dogs are up for adoption as well,” Hudy said.

The Saipan Cares for Animals will also be joining the 2015 Liberation Day Parade with a float of their own this July 4.

For more information or to volunteer at the animal shelter, contact the Saipan Mayor’s Office at 234-6208. *(Jayson Camacho)*

BSI launches art competition

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is calling on artists of all ages to submit artwork and compete in what has been dubbed as the Grand Marianas postcard competition. The artwork must depict the future of Saipan and must contain local elements of native hospitality and/or elements of the CNMI tourism industry.

Art submissions from CNMI locals of all ages are welcome and the winning entries will be featured on Best Sunshine property.

All entries must be emailed to bsiartcompetition@gmail.com by the end of business (5pm) on July 17, 2015. The top 3 entries

that receive the most votes by the end of business on July 17, 2015 will be considered the winning entries. The winners will be announced on July 25, 2015. The artwork winners will be awarded cash prizes for back to school expenses or art supplies. However, the top 10-20 entries will have the opportunity to be featured in a high visibility campaign so that everyone can enjoy seeing the many artistic renditions of the future of Saipan.

For more information on the contest rules, please contact Skywalker Communications Group at bsiartcompetition@gmail.com. *(PR)*

CDA board loses quorum

The Commonwealth Development Authority board lacks quorum after Gov. Eloy S. Inos withdrew his nomination of a board member earlier this month.

In a June 10 letter to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), Inos did not state his reasons in withdrawing the nomination of Tom Glenn

A. Quitugua to the CDA board.

He stated, “It is with deep regret to inform you that I am withdrawing [Quitugua’s] appointment at this time.”

Just last April 15, Inos wrote to re-nominate Quitugua to serve on the CDA board representing the first senatorial district, or Rota.

The appointment had yet to be advised or consented by the Senate.


In his June letter to Hocog, Inos apologized for any inconvenience to Hocog or other members of the Senate for his withdrawal of his nomination.

For about a week in April, the board lacked enough members to vote on the qualifying certificate of the pro-

posed development, “Ocean Vista Resort” on Capital Hill.

The certificate was later approved by the board after it was made known that Inos had re-nominated Quitugua.


One matter, among others, waiting for board review is the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s request that CDA suspend the debt and interest payments the utility owes to them. *(Dennis B. Chan)*



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-15-IFB-007

CONSTRUCTION OF FILE ROOM EXTENSION FOR THE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, SAIPAN, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of file room extension for the Finance and Accounting Office, Department of Finance, Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **June 17, 2015** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 06, 2015, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 15, 2015 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-15-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 24, 2015**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **July 24, 2015**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 24, 2015** and must be received no later than **August 04, 2015**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **August 05, 2015**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. local time, on **July 24, 2015**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **(\$25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Gov't Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Twenty (120) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.;

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA

Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN

Director of Procurement & Supply



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) 1,500-GALLON AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) VEHICLE** to the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-005-15 (AIP PENDING)**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) 1,500-Gallon ARFF Vehicle to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-005-15"** and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new aircraft rescue fire fighting vehicle in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED SIXTY (360) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, Friday, July 10, 2015**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifications, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOFOI

Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer

June 22, 2015

Date

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As soon as I step foot in Singapore's airport... oh boy... it was huge, the floors are as shiny as glass. It is so beautiful inside and there are lots of fresh garden plants attached on the walls. Inside the airport there are coconut trees that look so real, they are tall and big. I have seen a lot of huge industries like hotels, business offices and high rise buildings. It is so amazing to see an integrated resort because they have many hotels surrounded by theme parks. There are lots of places to go to and so many rides you can choose from. People like families, friends or groups are enjoying so much and so do I. A lot of people are shopping, dining at various restaurants, doing selfies and taking pictures. I also noticed that there are lots of huge buildings in the city but it is surrounded with huge old trees and nice gardens. It is green everywhere, it is so beautiful, and trees are preserved. I wished that our beautiful islands can also be like Singapore.

Presicilla Pangelinan, Singer/Entertainer and Traditional Artist



Having seen and researched on Marina Bay Sands and Resorts World Sentosa's integrated resorts in Singapore valued at near \$10 billion for the two properties and juxtaposed against the development cost proposed by Best Sunshine at \$7.1 billion has really put into context how enormous an undertaking this project is and will be. It would behoove the Government to take a more hands on approach in the overall right size of the integrated resort for Saipan and take every step to exploit all revenue streams available to maximize the CNMI's opportunity of expanding our tourism mix such as Meetings Incentives Conferences & Exhibitions (M.I.C.E), gaming-entertainment, and attractions that would benefit our overall economy.

Alex Sablan, President, Saipan Chamber of Commerce



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Past time for South Carolina to lower the Confederate flag—permanently

It's a decades-old argument that should've been resolved decades ago.

No, the Confederate battle flag should not be flying on the grounds of South Carolina's state Capitol. Not on the Statehouse dome, as it was until 2000, and not a few feet away at the Confederate Soldiers Monument, as does today.

No, it shouldn't be incorporated, blatantly or subtly, into the flags of six other Southern states.

No, it's not a pure symbol of Southern pride and tradition or a way to honor one's ancestors.

Yes, it is symbol of racism. Yes, it was used during the Civil War—a war fought over the South's desire to continue enslaving black people. Yes, it is used by the Klu Klux Klan. And yes, it was resurrected in the 1950s solely to rally resistance to the civil rights movement and support the South's desire to maintain segregation.

In fact, it was Gov. Fritz Hollings who, in 1962, put the Confederate flag atop South Carolina's Statehouse dome in Columbia. And it was that same flag, now next to the dome, that state Sen. Clementa Pinckney saw from his office window a few hours before he was gunned down in his Charleston church by, according to police, a young white supremacist who idolizes the Confederate flag. Eight others died, too.

The insanity of keeping the Confederate flag aloft should be obvious. And it no doubt is, to the many sane retirees, corporations and others who, over the decades, have helped South Carolina develop its bustling modern economy. The 21st century South has a lot riding on its ability to evolve beyond despicable Civil War grudges.

And yet, until Monday, when South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, backed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, declared "it's time to move the flag from the Capitol grounds," it wasn't obvious. Far from it.

Asked about the flag, the cast of Republicans running for the 2016 presidential nomination all sidestepped the question—including Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, though he apparently had a change of heart over the weekend.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida said he was confident that South Carolina would "make the right choice" for its people. Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, complained about being "baited" with the question. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker basically refused to answer at all.

The South Carolina primary is less than a year away. GOP candidates need—or think they need—votes from Confederate-flag-loving, conservative white residents.

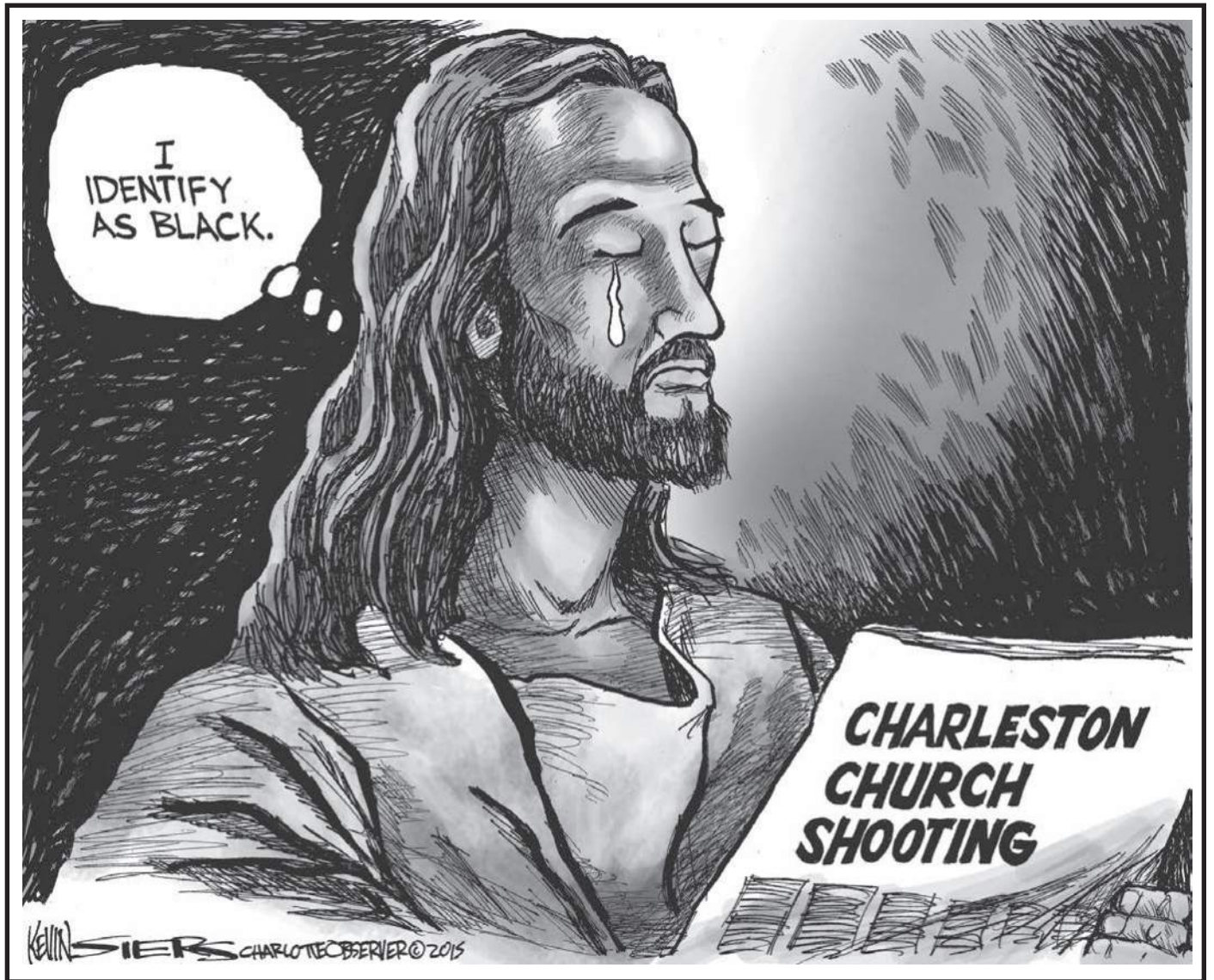
We are thankful then, that Haley, Graham and others are showing some political courage. Displaying the Confederate flag on private property is one thing.

"The Statehouse is different," as Haley said, "and the events of this past week call upon us to look at this in a different way."

The battle isn't over yet. To oust the flag from Capitol grounds, South Carolina's Legislature must vote to authorize discussing the matter in a special session and then, by two-thirds margins in both chambers, vote to remove it. Similar efforts have fallen short in the past.

And then there are the six other Southern states with flags that pay homage to the Confederacy in one way or another. Those need to go, too. And yet the momentum that exists in South

See PAST on Next Page



A home called 'yes'

"Integrated development" is a phrase used in the '60s when economic, political, and cultural factors were simultaneously considered in planning community designs, though international funding agencies hardly heeded their own rhetoric in engaging population of affected areas in resource development and production schemes. Piddly amounts were handed to NGOs to look after the "cultural" aspect, and gloss over the political to keep everyone happy.

Now fancied as the manner of Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s undertaking in its casino program, it uses the euphemism first used in Singapore as "integrated resort." The casino is but an ingredient, albeit, the umbrella to the construction of hotels, restaurants, shopping and convention centers, theaters, museums and theme parks. Best Sunshine out of HK is marketing its excavations on Saipan as an "integrated resort" in the manner of the Marina Bay and Sentosa models out of Singapore.

Already, community leaders intent in preserving cultural identities by keeping meticulous historical records of the Chamorro and Carolinian heritage at the excavation site (the word "Chamolinian" which we had the misfortune of using as a unity word is actually a euphemism to gloss over historical differences, I was properly told) are crying out "foul" for the shoddy treatment being given the findings and how they fit in the scheme of things.

When a car dealership manager was asked why his maintenance crew was storm-boarding the glass of his display room a few weeks back, he pointed to the path of Typhoon Dolphin pasted on his office door. At the Finasisu Terraces, the maintenance crew put up the storm boards on the windows, too, double-checked the power generator and the well's water pump that became useful when CUC experienced interruptions.

We generally tend to be apathetic until a crisis situation gets us to be active. We are on denial about the gross implications of things like climate change, ignoring the threat until it is in our doorsteps. As the reality of the Chamorro-Carolinian divide once again is manifest, the tendency to gloss over differences is high.

The same holds true to the illusions of economic growth in global economics, the language of progress when enterprises are based on resource use, rapid mineral extractions, and cheap manufacturing for goods that depend on other developing countries' exploited labor, even imported ones as we experienced during the heyday of the garment industry in the CNMI. The bottom line at the quarter's end is attended to; habitat and ecology suffer.

The dam of denial breaking to face what is authentic is the optimistic view, as boarding one's display room when an imminent typhoon makes a call. French-owned FHB chooses to engage in strategic hope in its "It all starts with Yes" ads. Humans can create

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



sustainable ways of being on this planet, it implies. This hope goes beyond just being a PR piece. FHB incarnates it in the here-and-now where it operates.

OK. Not that FHB is losing any sleep over it, but the notion of operating out of "Yes" rather than the indifferent "I will think about it," or the blatantly self-defeating, "it is impossible", does matter.

The typhoon that visited the Marianas last month was par for the course that came and went with the geography. We overcame. Rota's food supply needed adjustments but no one died of starvation.

It is the damage that banks inflict when they face up to the fact that wealth by today's definition is a mirage requiring a public bail out to readjust dependency on currency usage. Assets in round-the-clock portfolios rather than in actual production of goods increase paper value but not real wealth. Banks keep audit notes then add the illusion of value to the act. Employ in an arm of a financial service is the preferred white-collar profession of many.

"Yes" in the reality of climate change, for instance, suggests facing CO2 emissions against an escapist "let's get the vehicles ready to fly to the moon" that Texans talk of to start human colonies in outer space, abandoning a doomed Earth!

The data is daunting. Where water was before, there is drought. Where water was once scarce, there is flood. Earthquakes are stronger and the damage deeply felt as social congestion invites substandard housing. We self-inflicted miseries by addiction to quick profit and greed on gain.

We find escape routes from the congestions of urban centers until we discover the plastic wrapper sticking out of the Saipan sand shore. There is no escape even in the pristine atolls of the Marshalls. We cry against the rapid despoiling of surrounding. But if we surrender ingenuity and creativity to ennui, we lose out to chance!

"Yes" is a choice of hope where conservation of natural resources abides, the workforce participates in the decision-making process and the ownership of production means, and distribution channels have built-in values on equity and equality. It is an option we can make!

The home called "Yes" is now totally and inescapably the planet Earth. We will guard the option in the CNMI!

Use of shadow money

It's an interesting documentary aired recently on Saipan Cable that showed how the top 1 percent of the wealthiest folks across the country dispose of their income. For billionaires, the global village is a proving ground influencing the destiny of man the world over from use of digital technology to food they buy for consumption.

Most would use what's known as philanthropy—a worthy cause of sort—to return some of their largess to communities around the world. Millions of dollars are combined to fight off the deadly Ebola, malaria, bubonic diseases, etc.

But how else do billionaires use their money? In recent years and after the lid is opened for huge political contributions, billionaires did just that—donating to the two parties—like the two presidential election.

One was happy that Obama has kept the oil pipelines from construction. This gives the donor-billionaire the chance to ship oil via his railroad system as far down as Texas. Obama uses the EPA to effectively derail the oil pipeline while the other billionaire employs the jobless and labor unions to counter Mr. O's agenda. It's all funded in what's known nationwide as “shadow money”.

Billionaires have their own elite group that meets in Sweden. The group basically dictates the entire global community's activities from resources, development and manufacturing to exports. It's influence at its peak backed by millions of dollars.

Billionaires also control the national media. They have bought into network ownership and national dailies between LA, DC and New York. Theirs is to control the national conversation. In other words, we talk about what they wanted us to discuss spreading their viewpoints—liberal or conservative. Admirable though the conviction of conservative news icons working the clock to recapture the

essence of our country as envisioned by the founding fathers.

New Lap Dogs: Our version is basically the same though a new dawn in vicious political phenomenon. It's up and about with fatally ugly fangs. The “we few” guardians of the people have shifted loyalty as paid lap dogs by their new masters.

It's the dawn of embracing representation of a new constituency alienating “we the people”. They've trashed their relationship with villagers who elected them into office. Well, we shall see how this pans out as we challenge the depth of your conviction and conscience on representation.

Village folks who once stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their representatives must now go it alone. Abandoned, they must endure skyrocketing prices in utilities, basic goods, healthcare and other familial needs. It's hardship coming from failure of their now alienated representatives to do something constructive. Shadow money is in full bloom here too!

Lost Puzzle

We're supposed to be good poker players, a game we've picked up since the Spanish Era. Our elderly have learned to play it during wakes and community gatherings.

Somehow we've lost the skill when to call, roll or hold. Interestingly, we've been rolling like there's no tomorrow. I suppose when there's that last coin in your pocket you let it loose come what may. Still have the gambler's courage but not the skills.

When we lose it all we roll-up our sleeves and head home, broke! When you return to the table then you're probably asking for a double whammy.

I tried to look the other way on the fiscal crisis at home. But my conscience says otherwise. It's the ordinary folks who need

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

to know the truth. Sadly, the missing puzzle is in our once fully grounded sensibilities.

Magoo: 'If I Guvanna...'

My friend had a simplistic view of the role of a titular head. But it doesn't deter him from unloading his bold and oft disoriented views on the issue.

“No more Sisyphus syndrome—rolling up a huge rock to the top of the hill then watch roll down—repeating the same feat all day long”.

I know that we'd end up in Uracas (northernmost island) talking about the fiscal condition of the NMI without new sources of revenue and without solutions to meeting piling obligations.

“Da guys decided not to fund CHC, forego CUC's debts with CDA, peep if CHC and PSS are threatening to pay some of their cumulative utility debts,” he said. “It's the new definition of budgeting or skirting paying off debts.”

Related how the pension program would bankrupt the NMI sooner than later. It's like volcanic eruption where it's a sure thing except for the question, when? But we're dealing with demagogues!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Antibiotic resistance: Gene mutations or natural selection?

When a certain antibiotic fails to mop up an infection, a common statement is “Oh no! The bacteria have mutated once again!” Over time, large populations of bacteria have clearly developed resistance to a variety of antibiotics, but is antibiotic resistance really the result of gene mutations?

A mutation is a change in an organism's normal gene sequence. Such changes occur when a cell makes a mechanical mistake as it copies a gene or when a sequence of information gets deleted, inserted, or transposed (turned end for end). Chemicals and radiation of certain kinds are known to cause harm to organisms' genes. Agents which increase the rate of mutation are referred to as *mutagens*. When a mutation occurs, the normal genetic code of the organism is altered. The genetic information encoded in its cells is held on double stranded molecules called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). Although DNA is classified as an acid because of its chemical structure, it is more importantly a highly ordered biological molecule—much more complex than other organic molecules such as methane or ethanol. Whereas methane and ethanol repeat the same simple chemical sequence again and again, DNA contains a code much like the sentences of a written language encoded by letters. However, the genetic code contains only four characters. The sequence of characters within the DNA molecule provides the specific instructions for building proteins. Proteins are biological machines which allow the living cell to function; they are highly complex in their shapes. If the DNA code is slightly altered, the result is a protein of non-functional shape. Since protein structure is organized on at least three different levels, even if a mutation were to code for a superior protein structure, other profitable chance mutations would need to occur at the same time in order to produce structural changes at other levels to accommodate any critical positive changes. For a beneficial functional change, not only would the right random mutation need to occur, but in order to be beneficial, many other unlikely random mutations would need to occur at the same time. If all of these unlikely events did not occur simultaneously, none of them would be functional; in fact, such changes, though possibly

beneficial collectively, would, in isolation, only drain the organism's energy. The principle of irreducible complexity holds that the probability of unlikely events occurring simultaneously makes an overall beneficial result extremely unlikely—even when allowing millions or billions of years for the various unlikely events to occur at the same time. Thus, the now popular notion and claim that mutations cause any advantage of fitness is highly suspect and rests on a complete lack of observational evidence.

Rather than gene mutations, natural selection seems a more plausible explanation for antibiotic resistance. Natural selection is a readily observable and clearly understood biological principle, which holds that environmental factors select for the reproduction of individuals that are adept to the particular environmental conditions at hand. Neither is it contested that all sizeable populations exhibit great variation within their respective gene pools. Selective pressure on bacterial populations by weak administration of antibiotics has been detected within as few as one thousand bacterial generations. Many modern biology textbooks claim that bacteria evolve at a much faster rate than other organisms based on the fact that generations can double their numbers within minutes. Here, the term *evolve* presumes a natural increase in information and its complexity rather than

simple selection of pre-existing information. Moreover, the conclusion that bacteria evolve faster than larger organisms is based on the assumption that evolution is occurring in the first place, and there is no observational evidence that it is. Even if bacteria were to have evolved over billions or millions of years to reach their present state of existence, how could random-chance mutations, over mere decades or years, produce the complex bacterial structures to alter metabolic pathways and redesign cell wall construction, which would be necessary to combat the tactics of antibiotics.

In summary, while all would agree that bacteria, like other organisms, undergo mutations, the connection between mutations and antibiotic resistance is highly suspect. Natural selection, on the other hand, is a readily observable scientific phenomenon. Thus, instead of assuming that mutations cause antibiotic resistance, it may be more accurate to conclude that selection of genetically resistant bacteria has occurred. There is no reason to doubt that all of the genes for resistance have been ever-present within the gene pool.

Dr. W. Daniel Bacon

Via email

‘Juneteenth’ is not a ‘slur’

In one of last week's opinion pieces, you write: “Juneteenth was ‘June Nineteenth’ when Union Soldiers emancipated slaves in Texas. The slaves slurred their words and June 19 became ‘Juneteenth’!”

Your statement that the slaves slurred their speech is racist and offensive, because it plays upon the old stereotype that African-Americans just shuffle along slowly without picking up their feet and are even too lazy to open their mouths all the way, so that their words come out all slurred and garbled.

Please note: Then as now, African-Americans did and do not slur their words—or at least not any more frequently than any of the rest of us do.

“Juneteenth” is not a ‘slur’; it is a *contraction* of “June Nineteenth,” in the same way that “Wednesday” is a contraction of “Wedenes Day.” Not all contractions use apostrophes. So, June + Nineteenth = Junenineteenth > June'teenth > Juneteenth. Likewise, Wedenes Day > Wed'nes Day > Wed'nesday > Wednesday; ‘Weden’ being the principal deity of the old Anglo-Saxon pre-Christian religion. (He was the English equivalent to the Norse god ‘Odin’ and the German god ‘Wotan’.)

Your history is also slightly misstated. The Union Army did not emancipate the slaves in Texas. President Lincoln did that by a late 1862 executive order that took effect on 1 January 1863. But he only abolished slavery in the states that had seceded from the Union. Slavery remained legal in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri because those states had remained

loyal to the union. The Emancipation Proclamation also did not apply to the parts of southeast Virginia, west Tennessee, and southern Louisiana that were occupied by Union troops at the time the Proclamation was made.

Communication being what it was during the Civil War, word of the Emancipation Proclamation did not reach Texas until May 1865, and it took a while for the word to spread. Union Army forces arrived in Galveston, Texas on 18 June 1865. On 19 June, General Granger announced that slavery had been abolished in the Southern states two and a half years earlier; and that he and his men had arrived in Galveston to enforce the Proclamation.

The Civil War ended three days later on 22 June 1865. Slavery was finally abolished throughout the United States (except as punishment for a crime) on 6 December 1865, when ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was complete.

Juneteenth is a half-day state holiday in Texas, and a ceremonial state holiday in all other states except Arizona, Hawai'i, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah. A ceremonial holiday is a holiday like Mother's Day or Harvey Milk Day – it's noted as a holiday on the state's official calendar, but government offices remain open (except for holidays like Mother's Day and Father's Day, which always fall on Sunday when the offices are closed anyway).

Mícheál McLoughlin

San Francisco

PAST

From Page 10

Carolina hasn't made it to their borders.

The Confederate flag has no place in government. Like Nazi Germany's swastika and the Soviet Hammer and Sickle, the Confederate belongs in museums and history books to be studied and understood, not to serve as a sugar-coated symbol of a bygone era that didn't exist.

California figured this out when lawmakers, in a bipartisan vote, overwhelmingly approved a bill by state Sen. Isadore Hall, a Los Angeles-area Democrat, to ban the sale of replica Confederate flags in the Capitol gift shop. It's long past time for other states do the same.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY

Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼78°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

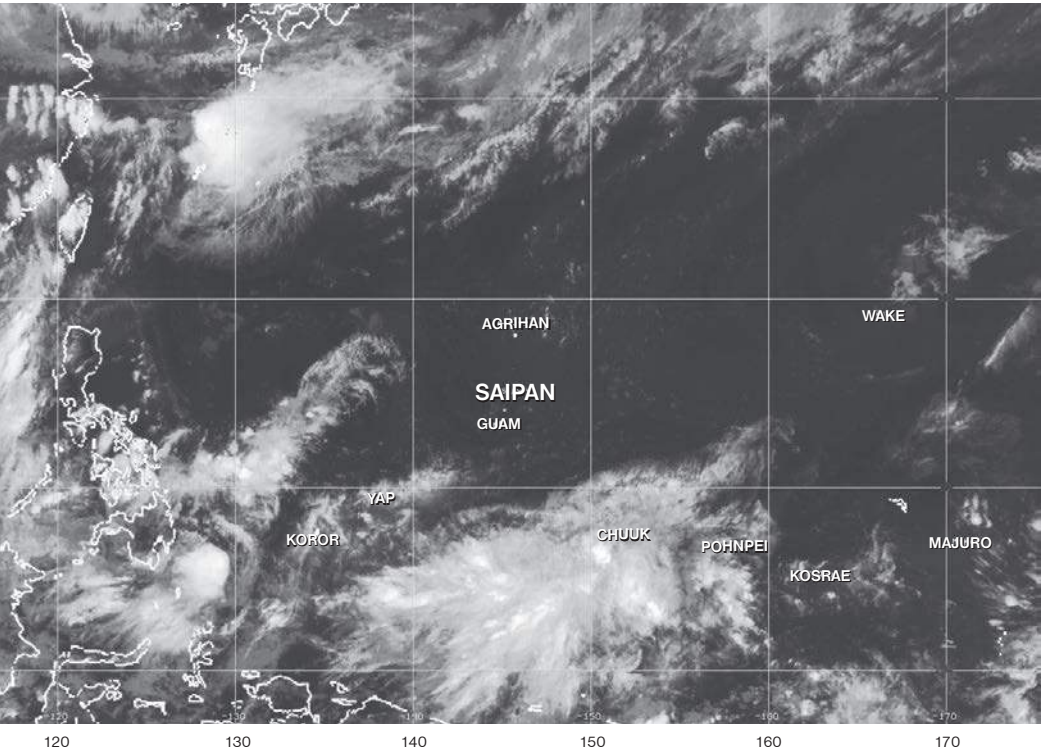
▲88° ▼77°

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from a circulation centered west of Koror near 8N131E then passes through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 6N150E before ending near EQ161E. Scattered showers are found mainly south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 6N130E to 5N142E farther east. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Chuuk state but mainly west of Pohnpei within 250 miles of a line from 3N142E to 8N157E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of Koror within 80 miles of a line from 10N132E to 16N135E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of the Marshall Islands between 7N and the equator from 175E to the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼81

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Sunny	▲55	▼46
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼57
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲93	▼67
Osaka	Showers	▲85	▼71
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼56
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼66
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼63
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼66
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼69
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲90	▼69

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
1:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:02 PM	
Thursday	12:49 PM	12:21 AM
Friday	1:37 PM	12:59 AM
Saturday	2:25 PM	1:39 AM
Sunday	3:16 PM	2:22 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 28, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:15pm	3:55pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	12:55pm	1:45pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:05pm	3:55pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:15pm	2:50pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:20pm	3:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:55am	4:25pm	3, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	3, 4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	5:25pm	9:10pm	3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/179	2:15pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:05pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
			9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-15-017

WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to provide construction repair services for identified waterline leaks in the CUC water system. This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract will be awarded to multiple Contractors. The work will consist of excavation and leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC & the US Department of Interior –Bureau of Reclamation. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **June 23, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by 3:00 p.m. (ChST) on June 26, 2015 in order to be considered.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC RFP-15-017, Waterline Repairs, Saipan, CNMI” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 14, 2015.** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission.

The deadline for proposal submittals is July 14, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be distributed to all registered proponents by the CUC Procurement and Supply office.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents’ preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.



CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 30, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-15-018

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified entities for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for “Commodity Groups”.

Prospective Bidders must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-15-018, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 16, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission’s (CPUC) and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director’s (BOD) approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 29, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palatiao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palatiao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)

College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Building Cleaner (4)

High School Diploma or equivalent. Must have at least 3 years working experience. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Important qualities: detailed oriented, responsible. Interpersonal skills. Must get along well with people they provide services for and must be polite and friendly. Physical stamina. Must be able to spend many hours on their feet scrubbing, bending, stooping, and stretching and must be able to lift or move up to 50 pounds. Must be able to work flexible hours and days.

Accountant (3)

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Business Development Manager

Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Accounting Supervisor

A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a focus in accounting and/or finance. 2-3 years of progressive responsibility supervising a minimum of 3 associates. CPA/CPA candidate a plus. Audit experience also preferred. Must have knowledge with the use of SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge of Excel is a must.

Administrative Assistant (3)

Associate's Degree with 2 years experience of administrative and clerical procedures and systems such as word processing, managing files and records. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Messenger (2)

High school graduate. Must be able to keep track of multiple documents and itemize. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Good oral and written communication skills and good driving skills are required. Must provide and maintain own vehicle for work and have a valid driver's license. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant for Sports Facilities (3)

Graduate of a 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic

Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

HR & Administrative Assistant

Associate's Degree. Must have knowledge of principles and procedures for personnel recruitment, selection, benefits and personnel information systems. Knowledge of business and management principles involved in strategic planning, resource allocation, human resources modeling, leadership technique, production methods, and coordination of people and resources. Ability to work in confidential related matters, self-directed and be able to multi-task in a fast paced environment. With a minimum of 2 years work experience in human resource, administrative and accounting. Proficient in MS Office including Word, Excel and Outlook.

Vice President

Graduate of 4-year degree course with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management or hotel management, and tourism & cargo business experience for Korean Market. Proficient in English & Korean (reading, writing, speaking). Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Electrician

High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (10)

High school diploma or equivalent with at least 3 years experience especially in equipment and appliance repair. Must have some basic knowledge and troubleshooting experience in plumbing and electrical systems, masonry, carpentry, and other cleaning and general maintenance work inside and outside facilities. Must be able to lift and move heavy supplies and objects. Must be willing to work flexible hours.

Network Administration Manager

Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Engineering Manager

Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Legal Secretary (2)

Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Corporate Paralegal Officer

Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

IT Manager

College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician

Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer

Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)

Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

A pre-employment drug testing is required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, July 01, 2015.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

The Legislature last week recognized Juan C. Tenorio for his military service and professional achievements in the field of engineering.

One of the highlights of his military career was his promotion to the rank of colonel in August 1985. He retired after 30 years of "admirable service" from the Army in 1992.

House Resolution 19-10 was earlier passed to honor Tenorio.

In the official recognition, the Legislature cited Tenorio's unique personal achievements.

"It is the sense of this Legislative body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of this unique individual who have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence," the citation read.

Tenorio was commissioned as a second lieutenant, Corps

of Engineers, through the Army ROTC program and proudly attained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Degree from the College of Engineering, Marquette University in Milwaukee in 1962.

Tenorio's loyal military service involved temporary duty assignments as platoon leader, 263rd Engineer Battalion to eventually become Commander, 302d Engineer Battalion in Guam (1981-1985) and State Military's Support Office, Guam (1985-1988), and Officer in Charge, U.S. Reserve Western Pacific (1985-1989).

Tenorio's extensive civilian professional experiences includes Junior Highway Engineer, Los Angeles County, CA, all the way to becoming director, (Department of Public Works, government of Guam, 1969-1971).

He also became president and CEO for the Guam and CNMI branches of his firms for 41 years (1971-2012), Juan C. Tenorio & Associates, Inc.,

Legislature honors Juan C. Tenorio



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Juan C. Tenorio, in military uniform, is surrounded by family members and lawmakers during a ceremony on Capital Hill last week honoring Tenorio's military and professional achievements.

Juan C. Tenorio, P.C. Consulting Engineers, and JC Tenorio

Engineers & Associates, Inc. These were just a few of the

long list of accomplishments Tenorio had during a long and

distinguished career. (Joel Pinaroc)

Bridge Capital hires Dotts as counsel in Lao PDR's application for subpoena

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Veteran lawyer Michael W. Dotts informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that he is representing John K. Baldwin's Bridge Capital LLC in connection with Lao People's Democratic Republic's application for issuance of subpoena.

As this developed, Dotts and attorney William M. Fitzgerald, counsel for the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, filed Monday a stipulation extending time to respond to Lao PDR's application for issuance of subpoena.

The lawyers agreed that the reasons for such extension is that the schedule of Dotts and

the press of other business make it difficult to respond to the application.

The parties agreed that Bridge Capital LLC's opposition to the application shall be filed on or before July 17, 2015 and that Lao PDR's reply shall be filed on or before July 31, 2015.

The lawyers also stipulated that the hearing on the applica-

tion issue, currently scheduled for Aug. 13, 2015, shall be continued to Aug. 20, 2015 at 10:30am.

In the application, Fitzgerald disclosed that Baldwin is under criminal and tax investigations in Lao PDR for allegedly bribing Lao PDR officials over \$300,000 that caused termination of an audit and also cost the Lao government \$70 million in lost tax revenue over a five-year period from the operations of

Baldwin group's casino.

Fitzgerald asked the federal court to allow Lao PDR to serve a subpoena pursuant to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and U.S. statute on Bridge Capital located in Saipan, and on Bridge Capital chief financial officer David Jensen, in connection with the criminal and tax investigations in Laos and in connection with two international arbitration proceedings pending in Singapore.

The lawyer revealed that both the Lao proceedings and the arbitration proceedings directly involve entities owned and/or controlled by Baldwin and Shawn Scott, who own Bridge Capital LLC.

Fitzgerald asked the court to issue the subpoenas in order for Lao PDR locate the evidence needed to establish criminal activity in the Lao PDR and to support its claims and defenses before the international arbitral tribunal.

Nominations for '15 Green Awards extended

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for its "Green Awards" which will be presented at the organization's annual Green Gala event on Sept. 4, 2015. The Green Awards recognizes individuals, companies, and students who promote environmental stewardship and are committed to the preservation of the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.

The Green Awards include:
The Environmental Champion Award: given to an indi-

vidual who has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the environment and preservation of our natural resources.

The Environmental Heroes Award: given to a school that demonstrates dedication to the environment through its students and the work that they do to protect our natural resources.

The Green Business of the Year: given to a business that is committed to conservation and has incorporated a green business culture throughout its organization.

To submit nominations, please send the following information to: brookenevitt.mina@gmail.com: 1) your name and contact information; 2) your nominee and the category you are nominating in; and 3) an explanation why your nominee should receive a Green Award. The deadline for submitting nominations is July 7, 2015.

For more information, please contact Brooke Nevitt at 233-7333 or email: brookenevitt.mina@gmail.com. (MINA)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEQ red-flags Hidden Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged Hidden Beach on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more infor-

mation, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill closed on July 4

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill facilities will be closed all day on Saturday, July 4, 2015, in observance of Independence Day. Regular schedule will resume on Monday, July 6, 2015, from 7:30am to 11:30am and 12:30pm to 4pm. (PR)

NMC-CREES invites community to Agri Fair

The Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service (CREES) will be holding

its 4-H AGRO-Fashion Contest and Mini Chef Competition at this year's Saipan Agricultural Fair on June 27, 2015. The 4-H AGRO-Fashion Contest is open to children ages 8-12. Entry forms must be submitted by 4pm, June 24, 2015, at the NMC-CREES main office at NMC Campus, Building F. The Mini Chef Competition is open to participants ages 12-16. Entry forms must be submitted by 4pm, June 24, 2015, at the NMC-CREES main office at NMC Campus, Building F. Both Entry Forms can be accessed online at www.marianas.edu. For more information, please contact Polly Omechel at 237-5498 ext. 6851. (NMC-CREES)



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program FY 2016 State Plan is now available for review and public comment from June 24, 2015 to June 30, 2015 (Wednesday to Tuesday). Interested members of the general public may review the FY 2016 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill on Mayoria Ave Building No. N-25. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than July 2, 2015.

Esther L. Muna
Chief Executive Officer

Carmen C. Cabrera
WIC Program Administrator

Atty. Banes faces disciplinary complaint

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court-appointed disciplinary counsel Mitchell F. Thompson has filed a disciplinary complaint against attorney David G. Banes for allegedly violating a provision of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct when he apparently revealed information learned in the discussions with a prospective client.

When asked for comment yesterday, Banes said the allegations of the complaint are disputed and that he looks forward to a resolution of the matter once all the facts and law are known.

The Guam-based Thompson said Amjad Farhoud filed a complaint with the Disciplinary Committee of the CNMI Bar

Association in August 2011.

Thompson said the Disciplinary Committee determined that Banes had violated Rule 1.18 of the Model Rules, and referred the matter to the Superior Court for disciplinary proceedings against the lawyer.

Thompson said the court then appointed him to prosecute this matter.

Thompson is a partner of Thompson Gutierrez & Alcantara law firm. He has been a member of the Guam Bar Association Ethics Committee for a number of years. He is currently the chair of the GBA Ethics Committee.

The disciplinary counsel submitted in court the complaint under seal last June 2. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, however, ruled on that same day that after re-

viewing it, the court "finds no good cause to seal the matter."

On Feb. 14, 2015, the CNMI Supreme Court adopted the new Rules of Attorney Discipline and Procedure.

Camacho said the new rules take the position that disciplinary complaints against attorneys are public proceedings.

The new rules, the judge said, took effect immediately and there are no transitional language for cases initiated but are later filed after the adoption of the new Rules.

Camacho said prior rules required the complaint to be filed under seal until the court issued its order (unless it involves private reprimand).

According to the complaint, in March 2011, Farhoud consulted with another lawyer in Banes' office as to possible

legal representation regarding a dispute between Farhoud and Freedom Air, his former employer.

Thompson said at this initial meeting, Farhoud had been told to return in a few days to meet with Banes.

Thompson said a few days later, Farhoud went to his appointment with Banes and during this meeting he discussed issues related to his former employer.

Thompson said at the end of the meeting, Banes told Farhoud that his office could not represent him as to his potential claim against his former employer, Freedom Air.

Thompson said that, on Aug. 24, 2011, the deposition of Farhoud was taken in connection with a lawsuit filed by former Superior Court As-

sociate Judge Juan T. Lizama against Aviation Services Ltd., owner of Freedom Air.

Lizama sued Aviation Services for negligence and violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act. He alleged that he nearly fell out of the Freedom Air's plane when the door suddenly opened while the aircraft was airborne during a flight from Saipan to Tinian in 2009. Banes is counsel for Lizama in that case.

Thompson said Banes represented Lizama at the Farhoud deposition, which had been noticed by the defendant in that case.

Thompson said during the deposition, Banes asked several questions to Farhoud that revealed information which Farhoud had disclosed to Banes during their meet-

ing in March 2011.

Thompson said Banes' disclosure of this information violated Rule 1.18(b) of the Model Rules which provides that "...a lawyer who has had discussions with a prospective client shall not use or reveal information learned in the consultation, except as Rule 1.9 would permit with respect to information of a former client."

The disciplinary counsel asserted that Banes violated the provision of the Model Rules and that imposition of discipline is warranted.

A CNMI court marshal last June 2 served to Banes' office the summons issued by clerk of court directing the lawyer to answer the complaint within 20 days.

Saipan Tribune learned that the deadline for filing a reply was on Monday. A check by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday revealed that Banes has yet to file an answer.

SYP features MINA, BECQ as inspirational speakers

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee featured two environmentally themed speakers for their "Inspirational Speakers Night" series of events.

This month, the SYP Committee invited representatives from the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to share the importance of preserving our island's natural resources. The event was held in the conference room at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last June 18.

Elizabeth "Becky" Furey, representative of MINA, shared the different programs they have initiated to promote a "green" environment for our island. Over the past several years, MINA has implemented programs such as "Adopt a Bin," the "Tasi Watch Program," "Taya Plas-

tic Tuesdays," and their annual "Green Gala," an event aimed toward raising funds for the non-profit organization.

Furey stressed the importance of community involvement through volunteering and of increased outreach to students. At the end of her presentation, Furey and MINA executive director Brooke Nevitt encouraged SYP members to "be environmental stewards" for the Marianas Islands. She hopes that MINA's ongoing programs would inspire young professionals to be mindful of their environment and to be active members to keep our islands beautiful.

Thursday's event also featured BECQ manager Ray Masga. He provided insight on BECQ's mission and the important role that their agency plays in the community. Masga

elaborated on BECQ's recent projects which include the Dogas Stream Restoration Project in Tanapag, a project assisted by members of the community and other government agencies.

He also shared ways in which BECQ educates young minds through their annual Environmental Awareness Month Expo, an event dedicated to providing information about the environment to young students.

Both presentations provided

SYP members with an in-depth look at the importance of making smart and environmentally friendly choices to affect change. Inspirational Speaker Nights are exclusive events for members of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee, a commit-

tee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. For information on joining, please call 234-7150 or visit the Chamber website at <http://www.saipanchamber.com/sec.asp?secID=60> or the Saipan Young Professionals Facebook page. (PR)



◀ Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance executive director Brooke Nevitt and member Elizabeth "Becky" Furey were Saipan Young Professionals Committee speakers during its "Inspirational Speakers Night" last June 18. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael Norita Evangelista (Bar No. F-0364)
Attorney-at-Law
LAW OFFICE OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
Suite 2-C Saiban Building, Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa
PO Box 5600 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-9005/6
Fax No. 670-235-9007

Attorney for Petitioner Jane Pangelinan Lizama

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF:

MARIA VILLAGOMEZ
PANGELINAN,
Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION
NO. 15-0111-CV

NOTICE OF HEARING
AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

TO: CREDITORS AND INTERESTED CLAIMANTS

Notice is hereby given that Jane Pangelinan Lizama, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration and to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Maria Villagomez Pangelinan, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Michael N. Evangelista, Esq., PO Box 5600 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 11th day of August, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 223A, at the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice - Guma Hustisia - Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 18th of June, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO., : SMALL CLAIM
NO. 13-0372

Plaintiff, :

-v- :

GRACE UCHAU, :
Defendant. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated June 12, 2015 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-15 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested plant nurseries, for the supply, service and maintenance of Interior (indoor) Plants at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing interior plants for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on June 8, 2015. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Interior Plant Service and Maintenance. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 24, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Questions pertaining to this RFP must be in writing and address to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile at 234-5962 or email: cpa.mqlizama@pticom.com. no later than June 19, 2015. Response will be issued by formal written addenda and afforded to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request For Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Wednesday, June 24**. Payments not received by close of business on **June 24** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Wednesday, June 24**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Wednesday, June 24**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center - Middle Road, Chalan Laolao.

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:



SHELL Service Stations - up to 4:00pm
Chalan Laolao - up to 5:00pm
Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
TSL Plaza - up to 6:00pm
Online payment - up to 9:00pm
PAY BY PHONE - 682-4ITE (4483)

Business

1st Chinese tuna fleet certified by the Marine Stewardship Council

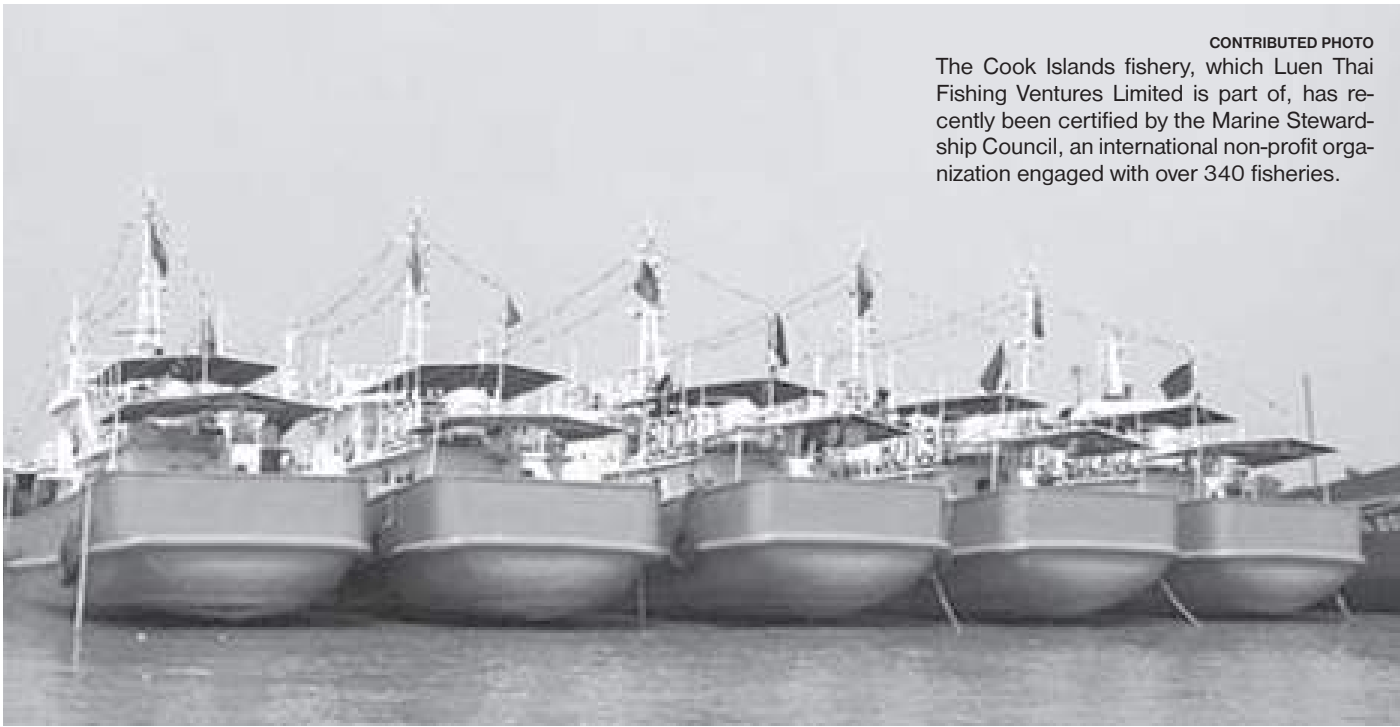
By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A tuna fleet operating in the Cook Islands Exclusive Economic Zone became the first Chinese tuna fleet to be certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

The Cook Islands fishery now joins a leading group of more than 250 MSC certified fisheries that are helping to ensure healthy marine ecosystems for the present and future generations.

“The Cook Islands South Pacific albacore long line fishery has undergone scrutiny by an independent team of experts who have assessed the fishery’s performance against the MSC’s robust and widely recognized requirements for sustainable fishing,” MSC’s Asia-Pacific Fisheries manager Bill Holden said.

The certificate, eligible since June 8, covers three fishing companies owned by Luen Thai Fishing Ventures Limited namely, Liancheng Overseas



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Cook Islands fishery, which Luen Thai Fishing Ventures Limited is part of, has recently been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, an international non-profit organization engaged with over 340 fisheries.

Fishery (Shenzhen) Company, Hua Nam Southern Fishery (Shenzhen) Company, and China Fishing Agency.

Luen Thai Fishing Venture senior vice president Joe Murphy said he is happy about the certification and looks forward

to other companies joining the movement.

“There is no doubt that by being MSC-certified, the Cook Islands tuna fishery will encourage more Chinese seafood companies and other tuna companies to join this impor-

tant sustainability movement,” Murphy said.

Sustainability

Aside from bringing global

recognition to the pioneering fishery’s efforts, the certification will also help safeguard the livelihoods of many in the Cook Islands.

“It will enhance the exclusivity of our fishery and add value to our albacore tuna export,” Cook Islands Ministry of Marine Resources Secretary Ben Ponia said.

All fisheries in the program undergo annual surveillance audits to ensure that they are meeting the high standards set by MSC.

“The fishery will continue to make improvements to meet the conditions set for it in order to remain certified,” Holden said.

Currently, the fishery produces 2,300 tons of tuna per annum. To remain certified, it must implement harvest control strategies to ensure that healthy stock levels are maintained and to demonstrate that fish stocks are well managed.

MSC is an international non-profit organization, engaging over 340 fisheries. Aside from the 250 that are certified, around 100 fisheries are under its full assessment.

Martha Stewart Living acquired for \$353M

NEW YORK (AP)—Martha Stewart single-handedly changed the game for home decorating and cooking in the late 1990s, becoming the “it” designer for all things domestic.

But the announcement on Monday of an acquisition of her media and merchandising empire in a deal that values the company at far less than in it was worth in its glory days shows how much her brand has eroded over the years.

Martha Stewart’s is being sold to Sequential Brands Group, which owns and licenses such brands as Ellen Tracy and Jessica Simpson, in a deal valued at \$353 million. That’s a fraction of the \$1.8 billion valuation when the company went public in 1999.

“The days when people looked to one person to tell them how to entertain, live tastefully are gone,” said Allen Adamson, chairman of Landor Associates, a brand research firm. “Today, there are many voices. She can’t go back to retaking that mantle because that mantle is gone.”

It’s a shift from when Stewart built her business, from books to TV shows, based on her penchant for decorating and cooking. Stewart cultivated legions of loyal fans, all eager to know the best way to decorate a cake,

set the Thanksgiving table or plan a cocktail party. Business was booming, and Stewart consolidated her businesses into one company in 1997 and then took that company public in 1999.

But in recent years, the company has been hit with heavy competition. No longer were people looking to get their information from a single source, but rather they were getting decorating and cooking advice from other domestic divas like Rachael Ray and everyday bloggers who write about home decorating, cake baking and the like. That was compounded by the fact that Stewart’s recipes and decorating rules didn’t quite resonate with younger customers searching for quick solutions on their iPhone.

Adding to these challenges were legal woes of both the personality and the company bearing her name. Stewart was convicted in 2004 on federal criminal charges of lying to prosecutors about selling ImClone shares a day before the Food and Drug Administration announced it declined to review the company’s application for a cancer drug. Stewart rejoined the board of Martha Stewart Living in September 2011 after a five-year ban that

was part of a settlement with federal regulators related to her conviction

Then, Stewart brokered a merchandising deal with J.C. Penney in late 2011 that competed with a prior exclusive deal with Macy’s Inc. As a result, Martha Stewart got into a three-year court battle with J.C. Penney and Macy’s, ending with Penney terminating its deal that covered certain products like cookware and towels with the company.

The company has been working to right the ship, though. In recognition of the shift online, Martha Stewart Living last October struck a 10-year licensing deal with Meredith Corp. to take over ad sales, circulation and production of Martha Stewart Living and Martha Stewart Wedding magazines.

According to the deal, the company would continue to create the editorial content. That deal enabled the company to focus on merchandise like pots and pans, which analysts say has been stale in the last few years.

Stewart also focused on re-making her brand online, signing partnerships and launching Martha Stewart Network on video streaming services like Hulu and Hulu Plus.

Apple’s about-face reveals cracks in music industry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Apple’s abrupt about-face on paying royalties for songs during a three-month free-trial period for its new music service was a symbolic victory for superstar Taylor Swift and other artists, and a shrewd business move by Apple, at a time when the streaming phenomenon is causing major changes in the music industry.

The olive branch extended by Apple comes as music is increasingly being consumed on streaming services like Spotify and Deezer—to the detriment of album sales and iTunes downloads—heightening tensions between artists, labels and service providers over who gets paid and how much.

Wal-Mart removing Confederate flag items from stores, online

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart said Monday it is removing any items from its store shelves and website that feature the Confederate flag.

The announcement by the world’s biggest retailer comes as the shooting deaths of nine people at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, have reignited the debate over the flag’s symbolism. The white suspect in the shooting, Dylann Storm Roof, appeared in photos holding the banner.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said Monday that the flag

Apple had already agreed to share revenue from the new Apple Music service once users start paying a \$10-a-month subscription fee for the service, which it plans to launch June 30. But the technology giant wasn’t planning to pay artists and labels directly for the use of their music during the free, 90-day trial period that it’s offering to get fans to try the service.

That changed quickly Sunday, after Swift posted an open letter to Apple opposing the lack of royalties during the free period, and declaring she’d be withholding her latest album “1989” from Apple Music because of it. Apple Senior Vice President Eddy Cue reversed the company’s trial-period terms, which

had gone out to thousands of independent labels, including Swift’s Big Machine Label Group, after the technology giant reached a deal with major label groups Universal, Sony and Warner in early June.

The company needed to avoid a “PR nightmare” and quickly extinguish the firestorm that Swift had created, said Daniel Ives, tech stocks analyst with FBR Capital Markets.

“They needed to handle this perfectly,” Ives said, because Apple is facing an uphill battle against competing services like Spotify that are already well-established. “There can be no snafus or speed bumps, from the artists’ perspective, or any type of consumer backlash.”

should be removed from the statehouse grounds, acknowledging that to many the flag is a “deeply offensive symbol of a brutally oppressive past.”

In a statement, Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said its goal is to not offend anyone with the products it offers.

“We have taken steps to remove all items promoting the Confederate flag from our assortment—whether in our stores or on our website,” the company said. “We have a process in place to help lead

us to the right decisions when it comes to the merchandise we sell. Still, at times, items make their way into our assortment improperly—this is one of those instances.”

A search Monday of Wal-Mart’s website for Confederate flag merchandise returned no results. But a Mississippi state flag, which features the Confederate battle emblem in one of its corners, was on offer.

A top Mississippi lawmaker called Monday for the removal of the emblem from the state flag.

STOCK
PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
18,119.78
+103.83
+0.58%

S&P
2,122.85
+12.86
+0.61%

NASDAQ
5,153.97
+36.97
+0.72%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2936
British Pound	0.633
Canadian Dollar	1.2331
Chinese Yuan	6.2071
Euro	0.8882

Hong Kong Dollar	7.752
Indian Rupee	63.6204
Indonesian Rupiah	13265.5
Japanese Yen	123.637
Malaysian Ringgit	3.7503
New Zealand Dollar	1.4577

Philippine Peso	45.1055
Singapore Dollar	1.3387
South Korean Won	1105.145
Swiss Franc	0.9276
Taiwan Dollar	30.8255
Thailand Baht	33.714

Nation

SC gov: Removing Confederate flag will defy race hatred

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—South Carolina's governor declared Monday that the Confederate flag should be removed from the Statehouse grounds as she acknowledged that its use as a symbol of hatred by the man accused of killing nine black church members has made it too divisive to display in such a public space.

Gov. Nikki Haley's about-face comes just days after authorities charged Dylann Storm Roof, 21, with murder. The white man appeared in photos waving Confederate flags and burning or desecrating U.S. flags, and purportedly wrote of fomenting racial violence. Survivors told police he hurled racial insults during the attack.

"The murderer now locked up in Charleston said he hoped his actions would start a race war. We have an opportunity to show that not only was he wrong, but that just the opposite is happening," Haley said, flanked by Democrats and Republicans, blacks and whites who joined her call.

"My hope is that by removing a symbol that divides us, we can move our state forward in harmony, and we can honor the nine blessed souls who are now in Heaven," Haley said.



South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley speaks during a news conference in the South Carolina State House, Monday, June 22, 2015, in Columbia, S.C.

The massacre inside the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church has suddenly made removing the flag—long thought politically impossible in South Carolina—the go-to position, even for conservative Republican politicians.

Haley was flanked by Republican U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, now running for president, as well as South Carolina's junior Republican senator, Tim Scott, and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn, both of whom are black. Within moments, her call was echoed by the Republican Party chair-

man and the top GOP lawmaker, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The governor's declarations sparked action in other arenas as well on Monday: Mississippi House Speaker Philip Gunn called for the Confederate emblem to be removed from the state flag, becoming the first top-tier Republican to do so.

In Tennessee, both Democrats and Republicans called for the removal of a bust of Confederate general and early Ku Klux Klan leader Nathan Bedford Forrest from an alcove outside the Senate's chambers.

Obama says US racism 'not cured,' makes point with epithet

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says the history of slavery and segregation is "still part of our DNA" in the United States, even if racial epithets no longer show up in polite conversation. He uttered the N-word in making his point.

In an interview, Obama talked about the debates over race and guns that have erupted after the arrest of a white man in the racially motivated shooting deaths of nine black church members in Charleston, South Carolina.

"Racism, we are not cured of it," Obama said. "And it's not just a matter of it not being polite to say nigger in public. That's not the measure of

whether racism still exists or not. It's not just a matter of overt discrimination. Societies don't, overnight, completely erase everything that happened 200 to 300 years prior."

Obama's remarks came during an interview on Monday with comedian Marc Maron for his popular podcast, where coarse language is often part of the discussion. The president uttering a racial slur aloud stirred controversy, especially on social media, and White House spokesman Josh Earnest said later Monday that wasn't surprising.

Obama didn't plan in advance to use the word to be provocative, Earnest said, but was

simply making a point during a casual, free-flowing interview. He said he didn't recall ever hearing the president say the racial slur aloud before, but noted that it did appear in his book, "Dreams from My Father."

The White House on Monday said Obama, would travel to Charleston on Friday to deliver the eulogy for the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, the pastor of the Emanuel AME Church and one of the victims of last week's shooting. First lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden also plan to attend. The Obamas knew the slain pastor, who also was a state senator and an early Obama supporter in the 2008 presidential campaign.

day that a hunter had reported seeing a person fleeing from a camp in the area.

Terry Bellinger, owner of nearby Belly's Mountain View Inn, said the hunter told him he saw a man run into the woods as he approached the camp Saturday on an ATV. When the hunter went into the cabin, he noticed two things out of place: a jug of water and an open jar of peanut butter on a table. Bellinger said the hunter went to his restaurant, where he talked to police for several hours.

"He was visibly shaken. He wanted a glass of water," Bellinger said.

the latest search effort—one of many over the past 17 days—as a confirmed lead.

"There are a number of factors that make this a complex search: the weather, the terrain, the environment and frankly the vast scope of the north country of the Adirondacks," Guess said.

He urged residents and seasonal camp owners to call police if they notice anything out of place or capture footage on trail cameras of any suspicious activity.

Acting Franklin County District Attorney Glenn MacNeill had told WPTZ-TV on Sun-

Items recovered from NY cabin in hunt for escaped murderers

BELLMONT, N.Y. (AP)—Items recovered from a remote hunting cabin might be linked to a pair of convicted killers who escaped from a nearby prison more than two weeks ago, authorities said Monday as searchers swarmed rugged woods in the hamlet in far northern New York.

State Police Maj. Charles Guess said at a news conference that authorities had "specific items" from the Adirondack cabin some 20 miles west of the prison and sent them to labs for DNA and other testing. He would not elaborate on the items but characterized

Asia

PH holds drills with US, Japan near disputed sea

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines launched separate naval exercises with the United States and Japan on Monday on an island province facing the disputed South China Sea, displaying its security alliances amid an increasingly tense territorial rift with Beijing.

Philippine military officials, however, stressed that the weeklong exercises were aimed at enhancing disaster-response readiness and were not directed at any country or linked to the dispute.

Still, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency immediately bristled at Japan's rare involvement in a military exercise with Philippine forces near the disputed region. It said Tokyo was meddling in the conflict to try to divert Beijing's resources from the East China Sea, where the two

nations have been locked in a dispute over a chain of islands.

"This seemingly clever maneuver is only short-sighted, for Beijing will probably not be convinced next time when Tokyo says it sincerely wants to improve bilateral ties," Xinhua said in a commentary.

Filipino sailors will hold a search and rescue drill on Wednesday with Japan's Maritime Self Defense Force, which deployed a P-3 Orion surveillance plane to the western Philippine province of Palawan over the weekend.

The Philippine military holds larger military exercises each year with the U.S., a treaty ally. U.S. military officials stressed that the naval maneuvers with Filipino forces this week, which have been held each year since 1995, would be staged in Palawan and eastward over the Sulu Sea and not

in the South China Sea to the west of the island province.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. William Merz, nevertheless, said at the opening of the U.S.-Philippine exercises in Palawan that Washington's alliances with countries like the Philippines allow American forces to operate "where it matters, when it matters." He noted that U.S. and Filipino forces jointly responded in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan's devastation in the central Philippines.

The drills will also "ensure that our alliance with the Philippines remains strong, vibrant, and ready to contribute to the greater stability and peace of the region," Merz said.

Territorial disputes involving China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have flared in recent years.

Eateries in Chinese town hold dog meat festival amid outcry

BEIJING (AP)—Restaurants in a southern Chinese town held an annual dog meat festival Monday despite international criticism of the event as cruel and unhygienic.

The Yulin government distanced itself from the festival and announced new restrictions, but eateries reached by telephone reported brisk business during the event ostensibly held to mark the summer solstice.

Restaurant owners say eating dog meat is traditional during the summer, while animal rights activists say the festival has no cultural value and was merely invented to drum up business.

As many as 10,000 dogs, many of them stolen pets, are slaughtered for the festival held deep inside the largely ru-

ral and poor Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Adam Parascandola, director of animal protection and crisis response at the Washington D.C.-based charity Humane Society International, said he and Chinese activists had witnessed dogs being maltreated in a Yulin slaughterhouse on Sunday morning.

"A man would go in the cage with a club and just start clubbing the dogs, just beating them and beating them, not killing them at that point ... the dogs are screaming and trying to get away and it's really heartbreaking."

He said he was struck by "the huge variety of breeds" of live dogs, delivered on the backs of scooters and trucks,

on sale at a market. "I saw a Dalmatian and a chow and many dogs wearing collars that indicated the likelihood they were stolen pets," he said.

Apparently concerned about the adverse publicity, the local government disavows any ties to the event, issuing a statement saying it did not officially sponsor or promote the festival. It said authorities would tightly control public order and punish any incidents of stealing or poisoning dogs. Traders would no longer be permitted to slaughter dogs in public, place carcasses on display or serve meals outdoors, it said.

Despite such restrictions, restaurant owners said the festival continued to attract enthusiasts for the dish.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Nearly 150 die of heatstroke in Pakistan's Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Nearly 150 people have died from heatstroke in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi in the last two days, officials said Monday. Hospital reports confirm at least 148 deaths, said the city's health director, Zafar Ejaz. Hundreds more are being treated for heat-related ailments, including fever and dehydration, said Seemi Jamali, a spokeswoman for Jinnah Hospital. She added that most of the deaths have been among elderly people. Karachi has been in the grip of a rare heat wave, with temperatures soaring to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). A collapse of the local power grid over the weekend made matters worse. The heat wave is the worst in at least a decade, but the arrival of monsoon rains in the

Naeko Teruya, a representative of bereaved families, said that remains and unexploded bombs are still found underground and at construction sites. She said: "We still feel that the war hasn't truly ended." Many civilians were among the more than 200,000 people who died in the fighting on Okinawa in the final months of World War II.

Journalist abducted and killed in central India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police have arrested two men suspected of kidnapping and killing a journalist in central Madhya Pradesh state, an official said Monday. Sandeep Kothari was abducted by a group of men who beat him to death and then burned his body and left it near a railway track in Katangi town, police Superintendent Neeraj Soni said. The two arrested men are being questioned and police are searching for a third man involved in the attack, he said. Kothari's family said the journalist was killed for reporting about illegal mining in the Balaghat district. They said Kothari had filed a court case against the owners of some mining companies to stop sand mining. His brother, Neeraj, said Kothari had been under pressure from the mining companies to withdraw the case.

Japan marks 70th anniversary of WWII Battle of Okinawa

TOKYO (AP)—About 5,000 people including Japan's prime minister and the U.S. ambassador to Japan have held a memorial service to mark the 70th anniversary of the World War II Battle of Okinawa. They observed a moment of silence Tuesday at Peace Memorial Park in Okinawa.

World

Pope to stay away from homeland during S. American visit

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Pope Francis' homeland of Argentina is not on the itinerary for his South American tour in July.

The pontiff hasn't been back since he became pope more than two years ago, and the Vatican says he doesn't want to influence October's presidential election by visiting now. Francis has complained in recent months that he has felt "used" by Argentine politicians who take their picture with him in Rome.

Instead, the pontiff will tour Ecuador and two countries that border Argentina: Bolivia and Paraguay.

Although he will stay away,

Francis nevertheless intensely follows what happens where he was born and spent most of his life before becoming world leader of the Roman Catholic Church, according to local journalists who have covered him for years, friends in the country and Vatican officials.

"This is a pope who is very interested in politics and has considerable political sensibility," said Mariano De Vedia, political editor for the Argentine newspaper La Nacion and author of "In the Name of the Father," a book that examines Francis' rocky relationship with President Cristina Fernandez and her predecessor

and late husband, Nestor Kirchner.

Much of what Francis says and does has an impact in Argentina, a majority Catholic nation of 41 million people where the church wields great influence.

He has promised to open church files from Argentina's 1976-1983 military dictatorship—a potential Pandora's box that could spark more law-



Pope Francis

suits and arrests related to the estimated 30,000 people killed or disappeared during the "dirty war."

Francis made headlines early this year by lamenting that a growing drug trade in Argentina could lead to a "Mexicanization" of the country. Many interpreted those comments as a scathing critique of Fernandez and her party, which

has held power since 2003.

Earlier this month, he received Fernandez at the Vatican for the fourth time, drawing the ire of some opposition leaders.

"Don't disappoint me, Francisco!" Elisa Carrio, an opposition congresswoman and aspiring presidential contender, posted to her Facebook page during his last meeting with Fernandez. "Make good on your promise not to get in-

involved in politics."

The Vatican defended the meeting by saying that Fernandez, constitutionally barred from running for a third term, was not a candidate. Guillermo Karcher, the Vatican's protocol chief and a fellow Argentine, told local media that the nearly two-hour meeting focused on Argentina but did not touch on the August primaries leading up to the October general vote.

UN: Both Israel, Gaza militants could be guilty of war crimes

JERUSALEM (AP)—A U.N. investigation on Monday accused both Israel and Hamas militants of committing possible war crimes in last summer's Gaza war, finding that Israeli airstrikes on residential buildings caused many civilian deaths and suggesting Israeli leaders knowingly endangered them.

The report, which Israel rejected as biased, further strained its already troubled relations with the world body and could provide new ammunition in a preliminary investigation of Israel at the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Hamas, condemned for indiscriminately firing thousands of rockets at Israeli cities and its use of tunnels to infiltrate border towns, also rejected the report.

"We must remember that victims are not just numbers or collateral damage—that unfortunate word. They are individual people with human rights," Mary McGowan Davis, the American judge who led the

investigation, told journalists in Geneva.

The war started July 8, 2014, after a chain of events stemming from the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank by Hamas militants and the kidnapping of a Palestinian teenager who was burned to death by Jewish extremists in a revenge attack. Israel arrested hundreds of Hamas members in raids in the West Bank, prompting militant groups in Gaza to step up their rocket attacks.

More than 2,200 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians, were killed during the fighting, according to the U.N. Seventy-three people, including six civilians, among them a 4-year-old boy, died on the Israeli side. Israel has blamed Hamas for the civilian casualties, saying the group used schools, mosques and residential areas for cover and noting that Hamas repeatedly fired rockets from populated areas.

El Salvador bloodshed reaching the levels of 1980s civil war

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—Word on the street is that only the girlfriends of gang members are allowed to be redheads or blondes. So in this violent place, women are scurrying to salons to give up their blond hair and highlights, to dye it all black—not out of fashion sense, but out of fear.

"They also say you can't wear yellow or red clothing," said Claudia Castellanos, a beautician at an upscale salon. "Can you believe it? They've already attacked a woman on a bus for wearing yellow."

There's no evidence the rumors are true. The gangs, sophisticated criminal organizations, even issued a statement to deny the hair-color decree.

But with violence in El Salvador reaching levels rivaling those of the civil war that ended more than two decades ago, few are willing to take risks.

El Salvador has just experienced one of its most violent months since the end of the civil war in 1992, with 635 homicides reported in May for the country of just over 6 million people. June is on track to break that mark, with the latest bloodshed coming Sunday when suspected gang members killed two soldiers guarding a bus terminal in the capital.

Fear is pervasive across San Salvador. As daylight fades, stores close early and streets empty. At night, roadblocks go up to thwart possible grenade attacks on police stations, where officers sleep rather than risk being attacked while riding buses home.

Taxi drivers memorize signals to give gang lookouts who guard neighborhoods, flashing codes with their high beams and rolling down their windows to make themselves visible.

Europe cautiously optimistic of Greek debt deal this week

BRUSSELS (AP)—Greece has finally offered economic reforms that creditors consider closer to being acceptable, giving Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras a few days to turn a spirit of goodwill into a deal that might keep the country from a painful exit from the euro currency and roil international markets.

Even though a firm deal between Greece and its lenders to get Athens more loans remained elusive at an emergency summit Monday, leaders from the 19 euro nations and the International Monetary Fund said Tsipras' new reform plan offered the basis to break a four-month deadlock in talks.

"We are advancing toward an agreement," said French President Francois Hollande. But the gap separating what Greece wants to yield in painful reforms and what creditors are demanding before providing more funds remained sizable.

"We are closer than we ever were before," said European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine

Lagarde said that despite the improvements in the Greek offer "it still lacks specificity. And it is still short of everything that we expected."

Uncertainty over Greece has sapped confidence in global markets, particularly in Europe, and threatened the financial future of Greeks.

"I want to end this political gambling," European Union President Donald Tusk told reporters in Brussels.

In the Greek government's compromise proposal, Tsipras is offering about 8 billion euros (\$9 billion) in higher taxes and austerity measures over the next two years—several of which go against his election commitments—as he sought a belated compromise with Greece's creditors.

"The ball is in the court of the European leadership," Tsipras said late Monday.

Tusk said Greece's plans "were the first real proposals in many weeks." Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutchman who chaired an emergency meeting of eurozone finance ministers ahead of the summit, said "it's an opportunity to get that deal this week."

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE



We, the Family of the Late

†**SIMEON WARAKAI ODOSHI**
"Aghilippe"

Would like to extend our deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for your support and for sharing with us your prayers and condolences during our moments of sorrow the nightly rosaries, masses, viewing and words of encouragement, which in many ways gave us the strength and courage to endure our great loss. Your kind thoughts and words touched us deeply and provided us strength and comfort that we will always remember in our hearts.

Thank You
Ghilisow
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
May God Bless You All

Alicia T. Odoshi
Children & Grandchildren
and Family

First Death Anniversary



We, the family of the late †**Jack** would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Year Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved.

Mass of intention will be offered daily at 6:00am from June 17th to 25th at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On the final day, June 25, 2015, Thursday, mass will be offered at 6:00am. Breakfast will be served at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall immediately after the mass.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you, Un Dankulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Carla, Children & Family

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Master daylily grower salutes these 'one-day flowers'

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS

Beauty is in the eyes of the arranger, especially when it comes to Frances Thrash and daylilies.

As head of the design division for southeastern Virginia's Tidewater Daylily Society's annual plant sale and flower show, Thrash knows how to work daylilies into eye-catching floral arrangements.

Although daylilies can be stunning specimens in floral arrangements, they do come with their downside: The flowers are here today and gone tomorrow. Even so, Thrash thinks the flowers are worth the trouble and time.

"I would always use daylilies with other flowers and/or foliage—never just by themselves," says Thrash. Her arrangement in the 2013 show won first place and went on to win the National Award for the American Hemerocallis Society.

"When entering the flower show, I look for a stalk that has a bud/buds ready to open—vivid color and just cracking open. These will last for this one-day show. No matter how they are treated, they are one-day flowers, hence the name 'Daylily.'"

In addition to showing daylil-

ies, Thrash grows about 50 varieties of daylilies among many other plants in her garden in Virginia Beach, Va.

Daylilies are very easy to grow," she says.

"They like sun and bloom best with at least six hours of sun. A little fertilizer in the spring increases their size and number of buds on a stalk, as will watering them about an inch per week. Never-fail daylilies are the 'ditch' lilies, which are orange and come in single and double blooms. They literally will grow in a ditch without any care. Others that are wonderful are Stella D'Oro and Lemon Lollipop—rebloomers that will bloom several times during the growing season."

When you arrange daylilies for indoor use, treat them with care, Thrash advises. Bumping them into other flowers or foliage causes the buds to "pop" off and/or get damaged.

"I carry a bucket of water to the garden, cut what I will use and immediately place them in the water," she says.

"Floral preservative will keep them fresh longer, specially the buds, which will open later in the week. Preferably, I like to use stems that have a number



MCT

Butterfly weed is a good companion plant with daylilies in Frances Thrash's garden in Virginia Beach, Va.

of buds on them that will open sequentially with different foliage. The arrangement changes daily as the buds open and others close.

"My preferences in foliage are pittosporum, aspidistra, aucuba, canna leaves, hostas and ferns that are hardened—not new growth. Pure water

in a vase or floral foam is easier and if kept wet, keeps the flowers well.

Garden flowers that look good with daylilies in arrangements include herbs, butterfly weed, cockscomb, hellebores and roses, if the colors coordinate, according to Thrash.

Daylilies are only one of

many flowers Thrash uses in floral arrangements that have won her awards in many shows over the years. Working with flowers comes natural to her and has for 60 years. Her mom was a floral designer and garden club member, and Thrash was a mere six-year-old when she joined a junior garden club.

"I learned the basics at that tender age: correct proportion, lines and amounts to put in an arrangement," says Thrash, who is also a floral certification teacher at Norfolk (Va.) Botanical Garden, which offers a multi-week course annually. She still works professionally for Wholesale Flower Market and for herself, doing parties and weddings.

Her awards from flower shows are many, according to those who know her. Even Thrash has lost count, she says. She's president of the Tidewater District of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, as well as a master judge and president of the Virginia Flower Show Judges Council. Thrash teaches Flower Show School for the National Garden Clubs throughout the United States, according to her biography, and is a member of three garden clubs.

"I've always loved flowers from my early years onward, and still find great joy in them visually and physically, with both the touch and the smell of most of them," Thrash says.

"I love to teach and share my love of flower arranging with others. It's generally a peaceful and inspiring experience."

Death And Funeral Announcement

In loving memory of

† *Antonio "Anton" Duenas Takai*

February 10, 1924 – June 20, 2015

Survived by wife: Tomoe Kadokura Takai

Predeceased by wives: †Soledad Deleon Guerrero Takai
†Juana Naputi Takai

Children:

Margarita T. Prater (*Sherina & Steven and children, Wendi*)

†Maria Deleon Guerrero Takai

Jesus DLG. Takai & Caroline Domingo (*Alvin & Anita and child, Kimberly & Walter and children, Jenise & Geoff and child, Sollyann, Jessica, Jason, Kassie*)

Maria T. Eger (*Scott & Tara and child, Sherri & Tony and children, Christopher, Douglas & Tasha and children*)

Soledad T. & Wilfredo Lagason (*Darwin Jesse & Junie and children, †Donny, Donna and children, Vanessa & Joseph and children, Elaine & Randy and children, Thomas & Vanessa and child, Carlene & Ben and children, John and children, Antonio and child*)

Benedicta T. & Mark Nolan (*Alonna Kibbe*)

Eugenio N. Tenorio (*Reared*)

He is also survived by numerous great grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

On Saturday, June 27, 2015, family viewing will be at the Borja Funeral Home from 6:30 am to 7:30 am. Anton will then be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 am followed by interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

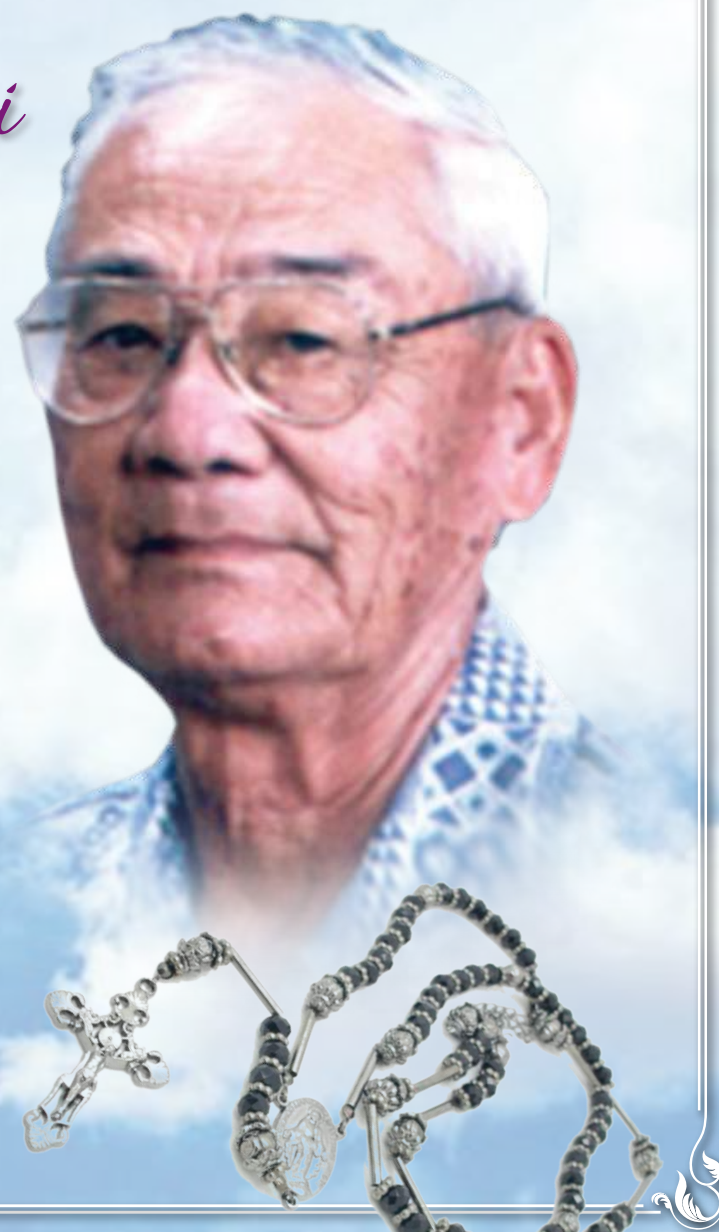
Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:

†Jose & †Ana Takai
†Soledad & †Jose Tenorio
†Rufina & †Jose Palacios
†Dolores & †Vicente Deleon Guerrero

Brothers & Sisters In-Law:

Amparo & †Jose Tenorio
Magdalena & Juan Castro
Margarita & †Eugenio Tenorio
Tatsuko Kadokura
To Yo & Toshikazu Inada

†Jose & †Consolacion Deleon Guerrero
†Joaquin & †Maria Deleon Guerrero
†Ana & †Francisco Tudela
†Pedro & †Lola Deleon Guerrero
†Francisco & †Lola Deleon Guerrero
†Susanna & †Pedro Pangelinan
†Jesus & †Victoria Deleon Guerrero
†Maria Pangelinan
†Rosa Ogo Naputi
†Francisca & †Jesus Santos
†Nicolasa & †Thomas Rios
†Candelaria & †Heronimo Manibusan
†Enrique & †Sara Naputi
†Jose & †Magdalena Naputi



Life & Style

Bill Cosby's lawyers ask judge to toss out defamation suit

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—A federal judge should throw out a defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby filed by three women accusing him of decades-old sex crimes because the remarks were personal opinions protected under the U.S. Constitution, his lawyers said Monday.

Tamara Green, Therese Serignese and Linda Traitz say in their lawsuit that their reputations were tarnished after the comedian, through his representatives, defended himself as they stepped forward in recent years with accusations against him.

The comments in question range from brief statements dismissing their accusations as "ridiculous claims" and "absurd fabrication" to longer remarks that attempt to discredit the accusers by highlighting their pasts.

"As the old saying goes, 'consider the source,'" ends

AP
Tamara Green speaks to the media after a hearing at U.S. District Court Monday, June 22, 2015, in Springfield, Mass. Green is one of three women who have filed a defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby.

one statement that touches on Traitz's criminal and prison record.

But Cosby lawyer Robert LoBue argued in a nearly two-hour hearing in federal court Monday that many of the comments are constitutionally protected personal opinions.

At least one of the remarks, he said, was made so long ago that it exceeds the statute of limitations for legal action and shouldn't be considered.

Joseph Cammarata, a lawyer for the three women, disputed those arguments.

He also challenged the notion that Cosby was acting in "self-defense" in issuing the



sometimes-combative statements because his character was under attack, saying that argument doesn't apply when a person knows his accusers are telling the truth.

"The law recognizes that if you believe that your good name and reputation has been tarnished that you have an opportunity to present your case in a forum where truth can be tried. It's that simple," Cammarata said after the hearing.

Cosby's lawyers declined to comment after the hearing.

The judge didn't immediately rule on the lawsuit, which focuses on the defamation allegations and not on the women's assault allegations. Their lawsuit seeks unspecified monetary damages.

Cosby, who has a home in western Massachusetts, wasn't at the federal court hearing, but one of his accusers, Tamara Green, was.

Green, a 68-year-old lawyer from San Diego, says Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in her Los Angeles-area apartment in the early 1970s.

Green was among the first women to publicly come forward with allegations against Cosby, a move she says has

had a negative impact on her personal life.

"Strangers speaking about me and believing that I'm a liar is very painful," she said Monday. "Sometimes it's too emotionally traumatizing."

Green said she's always been open to telling people about the experience, but few were paying attention in those early years.

"I was never quiet. I'm not a quiet person," she said. "From the first day to this day, I have told everybody who would sit still this story because I thought it was important and I thought it might save other people."

The Associated Press generally does not publish the names of people alleging sexual assault, but Green, Serignese and Traitz have publicly discussed their allegations.

The three women are among dozens who have stepped forward in recent years with accusations against Cosby, who hasn't been charged with any crime and has repeatedly denied the allegations.

Model Janice Dickinson has filed a separate defamation suit against Cosby in a California court after she accused him last year of raping her in 1982.

Hemingway's Havana home to get \$900,000 in US improvements



AP
A mural of author Ernest Hemingway and Fidel Castro shaking hands covers a downtown parking lot in Havana, Cuba, Monday, June 22, 2015.

HAVANA (AP)—A U.S. foundation will ship nearly \$900,000 in supplies to build a state-of-the-art facility to preserve Ernest Hemingway's books, letters and photos—the first major export of construction materials to Cuba since President Barack Obama loosened the trade embargo on the island.

The Boston-based Finca Vigia Foundation has been trying for years to help Cuba stop thousands of pages of documents from slowly disintegrating in the baking heat and dripping humidity of the sprawling home where the American writer lived and worked outside Havana from 1939 to 1960. Officials with Cuba's National Cultural Heritage Council, which runs the Finca Vigia, have been enthu-

siastic about building a conservation laboratory but said they didn't have the funds or supplies to do it.

High-quality building materials are virtually impossible to find throughout much of Cuba, with homeowners forced to buy paint and water pumps stolen from government agencies and pay overseas travelers to bring items as large as sinks and kitchen cabinets in their checked luggage. In state-run hardware stores, a request for an item as mundane as a box of screws can provoke peals of laughter from sales clerks.

The foundation's proposal to send four shipping containers with as much as \$862,000 of materials ranging from nuts and bolts to tools and roofing was approved by the U.S. government in May, after Obama

created a series of exemptions to the embargo. The exceptions include permission for Americans to export supplies donated for the purpose of supporting the Cuban people in fields such as science, archaeology and historical preservation.

Cuban architects, engineers and workmen will use the American supplies and Cuban cement blocks and mortar to construct a 2,400-square-foot, two-story laboratory where thousands of photos, roughly 9,000 books and a huge number of letters to and from Hemingway can be treated and preserved.

"It will make a tremendous difference," Mary-Jo Adams, executive director of the privately funded Finca Vigia Foundation, which was founded in 2003. "They'll be

able to be kept for decades, if not longer."

TV home improvement expert Bob Vila, a Finca Vigia Foundation board member who is Cuban-American and speaks fluent Spanish, will help oversee the project, Adams said. The head of Cuba's National Cultural Heritage Council told The Associated Press that she couldn't make any immediate comment on the project.

The series of exemptions that Obama carved in the embargo a month after his Dec. 17 announcement of detente with Cuba is designed explicitly to help ordinary Cuban citizens and the island's growing private sector rather than its socialist, single-party government.

But the Cuban government retains control of most aspects of life on the island. Obama administration officials acknowledged from the start that it would be impossible to prevent warming ties from helping a state apparatus that the U.S. criticizes for a lack of political and economic freedom. American tourism to the island is still prohibited by U.S. law and critics of Obama's engagement with Cuba say that it will simply funnel cash to Raul Castro's government.

'Hannibal' to wrap after 3 seasons; low ratings the culprit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC is bringing the curtain down on "Hannibal" at the end of its summer run.

The drama about a psychiatrist turned serial killer won't return for a fourth year, the network said Monday. The series was canceled because of poor ratings.

"Hannibal" is based on a character portrayed in several Thomas Harris novels. Another Harris novel, "The Silence of the Lambs," was the source of the 1991 movie that was fol-

lowed by a 2001 sequel.

In a statement, "Hannibal" executive producer Bryan Fuller credited NBC for keeping the series on the air despite its low ratings and dark subject matter.

"Hannibal," starring Mads Mikkelsen and Hugh Dancy, will finish out its current run with 10 more episodes on Thursdays at 10 p.m. EDT.

Its followers may be hoping the series will find new life elsewhere, as NBC's canceled "Community" did when it moved to Yahoo.



AP
This photo provided by NBC shows, Mads Mikkelsen as Hannibal Lecter in the episode "Contorno," during season 3 of the NBC television series, "Hannibal."

Diddy arrested on campus of UCLA, where son plays football

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hip-hop music mogul Diddy was arrested Monday on the campus of the University of California,

Los Angeles, where his son is on the football team, police said.

Diddy, 45, whose real name is Sean Combs, was arrested at

UCLA's Acosta Athletic Training Complex on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon shortly after 12:30 p.m., according to a statement from campus police.

The deadly weapon was a kettlebell, which is used in weight training.

No one was seriously injured. Officials did not identify the victim of the assault or say what led to it.

Combs was being held in Los Angeles County jail with bail set at \$160,000, according to public records.

His son Justin Combs is a redshirt junior defensive back on the UCLA football team, which has been working out on campus. He has played in just a handful of games in his three years with the team.

The son of another major rap star also plays football for the Bruins. Snoop Dogg's son Cordell Broadus is a wide receiver who signed with the team this year.

Football coach Jim Mora thanked his staff for their professionalism in handling the situation.

"This is an unfortunate inci-



AP

FILE - In this July 26, 2013 file photo, Sean "Diddy" Combs of the new network Revolt TV addresses reporters at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. Police say hip-hop music mogul Combs has been arrested on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Tarantino, Lauper, others chosen for Hollywood Walk of Fame



AP

FILE - In this Nov. 1, 2014 file photo, honoree Quentin Tarantino arrives at the LACMA Art + Film Gala at LACMA in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Quentin Tarantino, Tracy Morgan, Steve Carell, LL Cool J, Kathy Bates, Bruno Mars and Cyndi Lauper are among the famous names to be added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame next year.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced its selections for 2016 on Monday. Other names on the list include Kurt Russell, Michael Keaton, Gary Sinise, Itzhak Perlman,

Rob Lowe and Kevin Hart. Individual ceremonies have not yet been scheduled.

Recipients of stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame are chosen by a committee based on applications submitted by fans or celebrity representatives. Entertainers are recognized in five categories: motion picture, television, radio, recording and live theater. Each recipient is responsible for their star's \$30,000 price tag.

Lacking charges, court scraps bail bond on Flavor Flav

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Las Vegas Justice Court has scrapped a \$7,000 bail bond on Flavor Flav after the reality star and rapper's arrest May 21 on allegations that he was speeding, driving under the influence and possessed a small amount of marijuana.

The bond was removed Monday morning at a hearing attended by a legal representative for Flavor Flav. The performer's legal name is William Drayton Jr.

Bonds can be scrapped if

charges aren't filed within 30 days. Drayton has not been charged yet.

An aide for District Attorney Steven Wolfson says the office is waiting for the results of blood tests.

Drayton was pulled over on a freeway on-ramp near McCarran International Airport for traveling 73 mph in a 45 mph zone, according to the Nevada Highway Patrol.

Drayton's next court appearance is scheduled for July 22.

Plane in California crash registered to 'Titanic' composer

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)—A single-engine plane registered to Oscar-winning "Titanic" composer James Horner crashed Monday in Southern California, but the identity of the one person who died has not been released.

The crash happened at about 9:30 a.m. near Quatal Canyon in Los Padres National Forest, Ventura County fire spokesman Mike Lindbergh said.

The pilot was killed. No one else was on board.

Jay Cooper, an attorney for Horner, said the plane was one of several owned by the 61-year-old composer, and that no one has heard from him since the crash.



AP

Scattered debris remains on the ground following a plane crash near the town of Ventucopa, Calif., Monday, June 22, 2015.

"It was his plane and if he wasn't in it, he would've called," Cooper said.

The plane was an S-312 Tucano MK1 turbo-prop with two seats, said Ian Gregor, spokes-

Combs apologized, the charges were reduced, and he was ordered to attend an anger management class.

Combs and Stoute have since mended their relationship, appearing on stage together at Cannes in 2013.

Earlier this year, an Arizona man accused Combs of punching him in the face at a Super Bowl party. Combs was not arrested.

man for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Crews extinguished a fire that erupted in vegetation surrounding the remote crash site, about 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Horner has been nominated for 10 Academy Awards, winning two for 1997's best picture, "Titanic." He composed the film's score and its enduring theme song, "My Heart Will Go On," sung by Celine Dion.

His scores for "Alien," "Apollo 13," "Field of Dreams," "Braveheart," "A Beautiful Mind," "House of Sand and Fog" and "Avatar" also earned Oscar nods, as did his original song, "Somewhere Out There," from "An American Tail."

Woman raped by friend's fiance must share her secret burden

DEAR ABBY: Six months ago, my best friend's fiance raped me. He is a man I've known for many years, and I didn't see it coming. I became pregnant but had a miscarriage two months later. I recently had to have a hysterectomy from damage incurred from the rape and the miscarriage.

I never went to the police or pressed charges, and very few people are aware of the whole horrific experience. I have been beyond traumatized by what happened.

My best friend knows nothing about it, and I have been unable to face her since that awful night. We text now and then, and she keeps asking why I have suddenly dropped out of her life. I don't know if I can tell her the truth. We were as close as sisters, and I honestly miss her like crazy, but I can't be part of her life if this monster is in it.

Do I tell the truth? Or do I just shut her out of my life? This has taken a physical and emotional toll on me. Please give me some advice.

MISSING A FRIEND IN CANADA

DEAR MISSING: Gladly. Find the nearest rape and sexual assault treatment center in your province and make an appointment immediately! You need more help than anyone can give you in a letter, and the people there can counsel you not only on what to do, but also what your options are at this point. Your friend should absolutely be informed about

what she's getting into if she marries your rapist, but I do not recommend that you tell her until you have strong emotional support beside you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Our married son and two young children live in Kurdistan, Iraq. They are volunteering for a charity that helps Syrian refugees. While we admire their noble efforts, we struggle with the daily sacrifices this brings to our whole family.

We work full time and could save up to visit them, but because we are not comfortable with their choice to live in this dangerous part of the world, we continue to refuse their invitation. What do you advise? Are we being self-centered?

SO FAR AWAY

DEAR SO FAR AWAY: No, you are being rational and self-protective. Not only do I not think you are self-centered, I'm suggesting you keep them in your prayers and use Skype or video chatting to stay in contact.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Recently a friend invited me to a sex toy party. The saleswoman hosting the event is a distant acquaintance.

What is the most polite way to ask her if she has informed her family of her profession? Is it OK to attend if she hasn't told her relatives she sells sex products? If I refuse her invitation, would it be polite to enclose an order for some of her products? I prefer to buy from a repu-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



table saleswoman rather than some anonymous website.

AWKWARD IN ILLINOIS

DEAR AWKWARD: I don't think it would be appropriate to ask your hostess whether she has informed her family about her career, although I suspect she has made them aware of it. And if you prefer to decline the invitation, I'm sure enclosing an order for her products would be fine with her—and possibly the start of an ongoing business relationship.

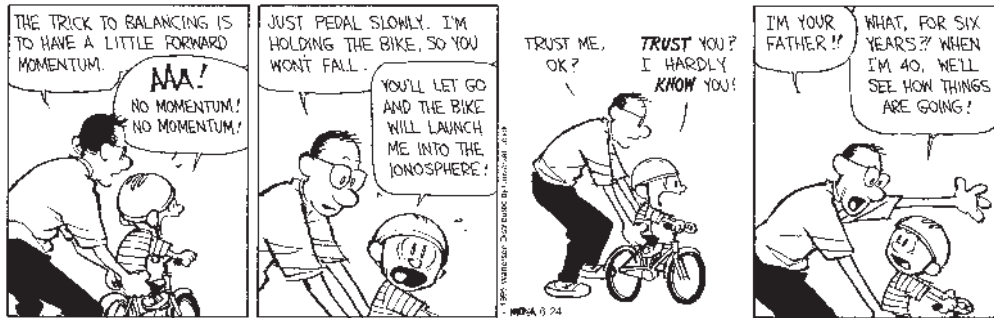
■■■

Good advice for everyone—*teens to seniors*—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



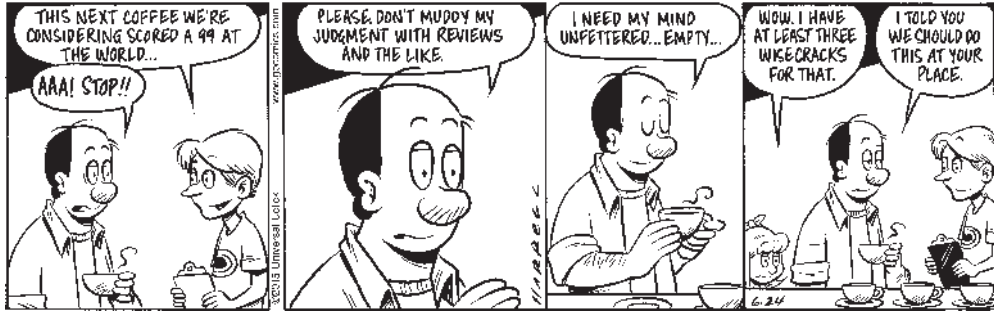
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



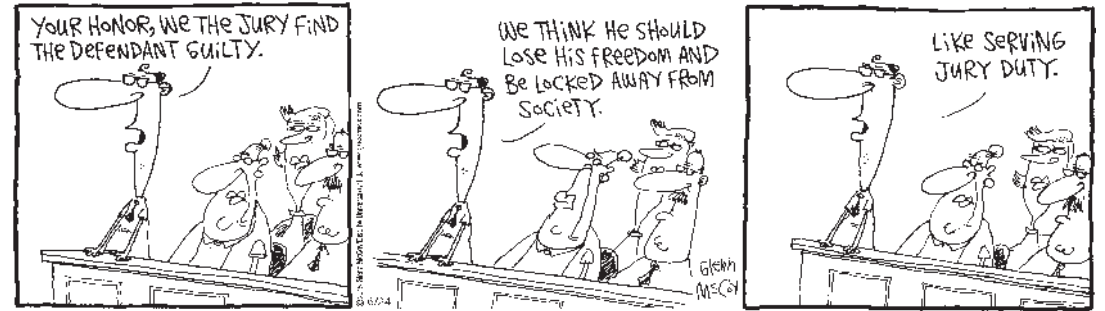
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

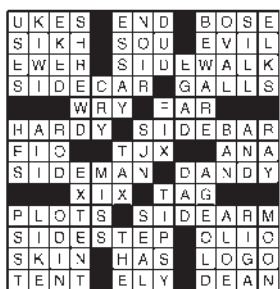


CROSSWORD

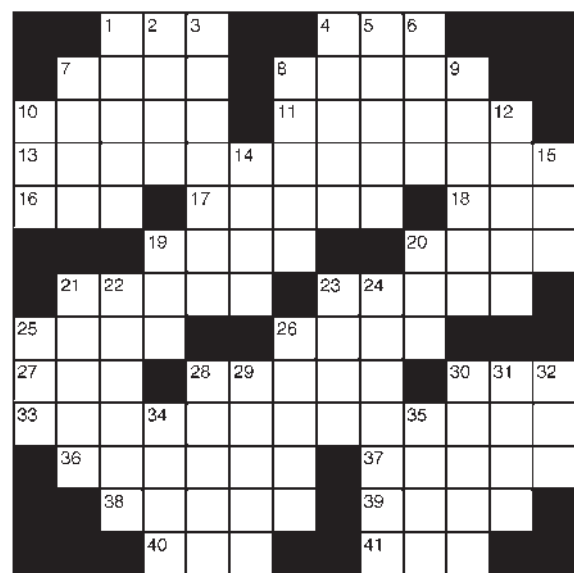
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 30 Billboards
1 Yuletide drink
4 Sch. org.
7 Tittle
8 Stumbles
10 Fess up
11 Devours
13 "Here today, gone tomorrow"
16 Turner or Koppel
17 Overact
18 Expert
19 Cereal choice
20 Obtains
21 Spectrum creator
23 Sprite
25 Mine car fillers
26 Hawaiian necklaces
27 Coal carrier
28 Clip wool
- DOWN**
- 31 Reaps
4 Brooklyn institute
5 Ten percent
6 Basilica area
7 Between jobs
8 Mortise's partner
9 Evening meal
10 Sternward
12 Celebra-tion
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ph. bk. data
19 Again, in music
20 U.S. soldiers
21 Roam predatorily
22 Cash in
23 Exploit
24 Duncie
25 Surprise reactions
26 Gives temporarily
28 Oktoberfest souvenir
29 Red-head's secret?
30 Use
31 They're often connected
32 Pigpen
34 "Holy cow!"
35 Eastern potentate

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 6-24



STUMPED?

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Minika Kelly, 35; Mindy Kaling, 36; Sherry Stringfield, 48; Jeff Beck, 71.

Happy Birthday: Don't make rash decisions because you feel emotionally pressured to do so. It's important to bide your time and feel comfortable about whatever situation you face and the solutions you are offered. Strive for greater stability and financial security. This is not the year to take a risk. Learn from past mistakes and budget wisely. Your numbers are 9, 16, 20, 22, 29, 35, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your options open. You don't have to make a commitment if you aren't ready. Time is on your side, and the possibilities are endless. An important relationship will expand into a bright and fruitful future. Embrace change. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful whom you deal with. Not everyone will offer an honest assessment of what they can contribute. Get everything in writing. Over-spending or taking on too much or trying to impress someone with lavish offerings will be your downfall. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be confident about what you have to offer. Let your skills lead the way and speak on your behalf. It's what you do that will make a difference and win you a spot in the limelight. Love is in the stars. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid an emotional confrontation. Put your trust in what you know you can do, and forget about

asking for favors. At the end of the day, you will get the most satisfaction from doing your own thing. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Mingle, share ideas and make positive changes. Helping others will lead to the support you need to push your ideas through to the top. A professional change will help you earn respect and bring in more cash. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Say little, but do a lot. Your satisfaction and success will be directly linked to how much you accomplish. Partnerships and joint ventures will not be in your best interest. Go it alone and take the credit and the rewards offered. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your wits about you when dealing with emotional matters. Think every situation through to the end before you decide to make a move. Back away from anyone looking for an argument. Use diplomacy to get your way. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put more effort into finance, health and legal matters. Don't be fooled by someone's promises or faulty investment schemes. Opt for a lifestyle that will help you reach your goals. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep making positive changes personally and professionally, and you will reach your goals. If someone tries to bully or pressure you, stand up for your rights. Don't be afraid to do your own thing. Personal improvements will boost your appeal. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take on something you don't want to do. Slow down and refuse to be forced into an impulsive move. Emotions will be difficult to control and are best left concealed. Don't feel obligated to take care of someone else's responsibilities. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let anyone limit what you can do or learn. Take the initiative to expand your skills and knowledge through research and trial and error. Experimentation is one of your strong points and will put you in a good position to succeed. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put some muscle into the changes you want to make to your home. With a little effort, you will make the differences you need to expand on a moneymaking idea you've been contemplating for some time. ***

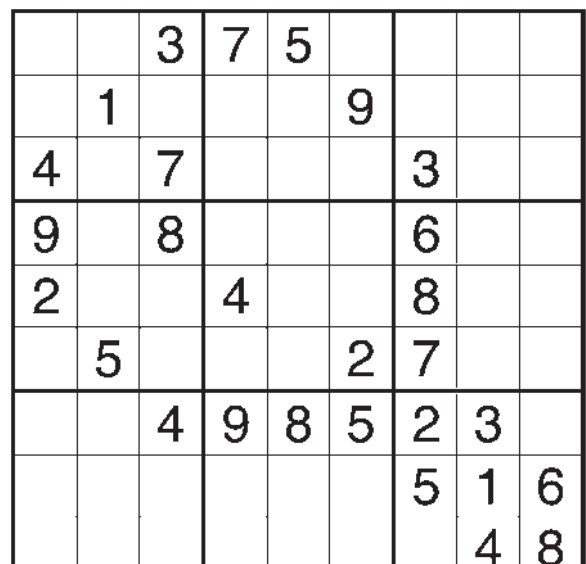
Birthday Baby: You are responsible and ambitious. You are well-spoken and insightful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exchoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



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Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Must be willing to work on flexible hours, shifts, evening, holiday and weekends.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 6 months to a year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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Morgan, Lloyd score in US victory over Colombia

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP)—Now that Alex Morgan has a goal, she doesn't want to look back on the opportunities she's missed.

She wants to look forward to the goals to come.

"I don't remember the last goal I've had with this team," said Morgan, who had been hampered by a bone bruise in her left knee going into the tournament. "And that's not a good sign. I don't want to look back and see when the last one was because now I've scored, and it's a fresh start moving forward."

Morgan scored her first goal of the Women's World Cup and the United States advanced to the quarterfinals with a 2-0 victory over Colombia on Monday night. Her previous U.S. goal came March 6 in the Algarve Cup.

Abby Wambach's penalty kick early in the second half went wide after Colombia goalkeeper Catalina Perez - a backup herself - was ejected for a foul on Morgan. Stefany Castano, who replaced Perez in goal, got a hand on Morgan's shot five minutes later, but couldn't stop the goal to put the United States up 1-0.

"It didn't have much power on it as I wanted, but it went in and that's all that matters," she said about her right-footed goal.

Usually she's lefty: "It comes in handy when it needs to," she smiled.

Carli Lloyd also scored for the second-ranked Americans, who will face No. 16 China on Friday in Ottawa. The United States is seeking its third World Cup title, but first since 1999.

The Americans have not allowed a goal in 333 minutes.

Colombia has never won soccer's premier tournament, but the No. 28 Las Cafeteras pulled off one of the biggest upsets in any World Cup in the group stage when they defeated

third-ranked France 2-0.

Morgan and Wambach started up top for the United States, which used the same starting lineup as it did in the group-stage finale against Nigeria - a first since Jill Ellis became coach.

It was Morgan's second straight start after working her way back from a bone bruise in her left knee. Morgan came in as a sub in the first two matches of the tournament.

Morgan missed all three send-off matches because of the injury. Her last match with the U.S. team was on April 4, a 4-0 exhibition win over New Zealand in St. Louis.

Perez, a 20-year-old junior at Miami, started because regular goalkeeper Sandra Sepulveda was suspended for yellow-card accumulation. Sepulveda had six saves in Colombia's win over France. Castano had started in Colombia's World Cup opener, a 1-1 draw with Mexico.

The teams played to a goalless first half, with the United States unable to finish several good chances.

Wambach was offside on her rebound goal in the fourth minute. Morgan later had a chance, but her shot bounced in front of Perez, who tipped it up and over the crossbar, one of her three saves in the first half.

Lauren Holiday got a yellow card in the 17th minute, her second of the World Cup. She'll have to sit out the quarterfinal, as will Megan Rapinoe, who got her second yellow in the 41st.

"I feel confident in the players we have to come in and contribute," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said about facing China without the pair.

Perez was sent off at the start of the second half after sliding into Morgan, who was charging toward goal. Wambach fooled Castano on the right side, but the penalty kick sailed



AP
The United States team celebrates a goal against Colombia during the second of the half FIFA Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer action in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Monday, June 22, 2015.

we haven't peaked yet," Lloyd said. "We still have a few more games for that."

The U.S. won the previous two meetings. In the 2012 London Olympics, Colombia striker Lady Andrade sucker-punched U.S. star Abby Wambach in the eye, drawing a two-match suspension.

In the days before the match in Edmonton, some of Colombia's players said they felt disrespected by the Americans ever since.

"Because of something that happened three years ago, they've said things that have not been taken by us in the best way," midfielder Yoreli Rincon said. Andrade told reporters she thought the Americans had "belittled" the Colombians.

Colombia, the third-place finisher in Group F behind France and England, was making its second World Cup appearance; it finished 14th in 2011. Colombia had never won a match in the sport's premier tournament until the upset of France.

"They played with an iron will from the beginning to the end of the match," Colombia coach Fabian Taborda said of his team. "At times the best team in the world didn't look so good because of the way we played."

The second-ranked Americans finished on top of the so-called Group of Death, with victories over Australia and Nigeria and a 0-0 tie with Sweden.

China, the Americans' next opponent, has played in six World Cups, but missed out four years ago. The Steel Roses have never won a title, but they made the final in 1999, losing memorably to the United States on penalty kicks at the Rose Bowl.

well left of the post.

Wambach took full responsibility for the miss, which she took with her left foot - not her usual right.

"It was a weird moment in the game where they get a red

card, and the goalkeeper has to get subbed out. I'm not giving myself excuses. I need to bury that," she said. "If that's in a different moment, if that's in the 89th minute to win us a World Cup and I miss, and it sends

us to overtime? That's on me. That's all on my shoulders."

After Morgan's goal in the 53rd minute, Lloyd scored on a penalty kick in the 66th, Lloyd's first goal of the tournament.

"We keep telling people that

Towns says there is 'no promise' from T-Wolves



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Karl-Anthony Towns has heard his name connected to the Timberwolves for the upcoming NBA draft for more than a month now, with the Kentucky big man seemingly destined to land in Minnesota on Thursday night.

Even after a report surfaced Monday that the Timberwolves have already informed Towns that he will be the No. 1 overall pick, he wasn't taking anything for granted.

"If I had a promise I would go start eating ice cream and getting fat," Towns joked to The Associated Press on Monday

evening. "There is absolutely no promise at all. Right now I'm just trying to see where I'll be playing. I have no idea."

The Wolves have the first pick for the first time in franchise history, the product of a miserable 16-66 season and some lottery luck that finally fell in their favor.

The Wolves spent all last week hosting the top prospects in the class at their shiny new practice facility, including Duke center Jahlil Okafor, Ohio State point guard D'Angelo Russell and Emmanuel Mudiay, a point guard who spent last season playing in China. The final visit of the week came from Towns,

who dined with Timberwolves president and coach Flip Saunders and owner Glen Taylor on Friday and then went through a workout in front of Wolves officials on Saturday.

The Timberwolves were the only team for which Towns held an individual workout, and he said Monday he enjoyed meeting officials and getting a brief tour of downtown Minneapolis.

"Flip Saunders is a great coach and a great guy. Glen Taylor is the same way. He's a great human being," Towns said. "We just talked more about how do I feel about basketball and just about life, just trying to learn more about my

personality."

Towns was reached during a tour with American Express to promote the Home Court Advantage Rookie Draft Desk Series, a set of four videos with Okafor, Russell and Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky that "gives fans a chance to see us more as people than basketball players" and shows their best moments on the court as well.

Towns had plenty of those in his lone season at Kentucky, helping the Wildcats reach the Final Four. His ability to play both power forward and center, his defensive prowess and ability to hit free throws helped move him to the top of the draft boards.

The tradition-rich Los Angeles Lakers hold the No. 2 pick, but Towns said he had no hesitation going to an organization that hasn't made the playoffs in 11 years and has never been to the NBA Finals. "It doesn't matter to me where I play," Towns said. "It matters what you do at the place you play at. It doesn't matter how successful or how unsuccessful a team is. It can all change with one pick."

The long-struggling Wolves are starving for a player unafraid of coming to the frigid climate to join a team that has been forever rebuilding. But with reigning rookie of the year Andrew Wiggins, point guard Ricky Rubio expected back healthy and that \$25 million practice facility, the hope

in Minnesota is that success is finally near.

"We want to give these guys a chance to develop and develop at a more rapid rate, and I believe that we've proven as an organization that we can develop players and you look at how Wiggins developed from when we got him to where he was at the end of the year, and we'll continue to try to do the same with who we take at the No. 1 pick," Saunders said after the Wolves won the lottery.

Taylor said after missing on high draft picks like Derrick Williams, Wesley Johnson and Jonny Flynn in recent seasons, finding a motivated player who was hungry to improve was one of the top priorities in making the decision.

Pujols' 2 homers help Angels beat Astros, 4-3



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Albert Pujols

homered twice and Erick Aybar scored the go-ahead run on a safety squeeze by Daniel Robertson in the eighth inning, leading the Los Angeles Angels to a 4-3 victory over the Houston Astros on Monday night.

The Angels (36-35) moved within 4 1/2 games of first-place Houston in the AL West. Texas is three games behind the Astros, who have dropped three of four after winning five straight.

Aybar began the winning rally with a leadoff single against Chad Qualls (1-4) and advanced on a wild pitch. One out later, Joe Thatcher walked pinch-hitter Matt Joyce while Aybar stole third.

In came Will Harris, and Robertson bunted up the first base line. Chris Carter charged the ball and made an errant, backhand flip past catcher Jason Castro as Aybar crossed the plate.

Robertson was credited with his second RBI in seven games since his recall from Triple-A.

Huston Street (3-2) struck out Evan Gattis to end the eighth and then pitched a perfect ninth.

Angels left-hander Hector Santiago allowed two hits over six innings, including rookie Domingo Santana's leadoff homer in the third, before handing a 3-1 lead to the bullpen.

Trevor Gott pitched a perfect seventh, but the Astros tied it in the eighth against Joe Smith on an RBI single



AP
Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols hits a two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Monday, June 22, 2015, in Anaheim, Calif.

eighth. Roberto Osuna struck out Steven Souza Jr. and Nick Franklin and pitched the ninth for his first save.

Phillies 11, Yankees 8

In New York, Maikel Franco homered twice, had career highs of four hits and five RBI and made a fabulous diving play at third base, helping Philadelphia snap a 12-game road skid with a victory over New York.

Cesar Hernandez doubled and had two RBI and Ryan Howard had a two-run single for Philadelphia in a second straight offensive outburst against a top starter for the lowest scoring team in the major leagues. They chased Michael Pineda in the fourth inning this time and beat Michael Wacha and St. Louis 9-2 Sunday.

Tigers 8, Indians 5

In Cleveland, Yoenis Cespedes drove in three runs, Miguel Cabrera reached base four times and Detroit continued to push Cleveland around.

Cespedes hit an RBI double off Trevor Bauer (6-4) in the first inning, homered in the third and added a sacrifice fly in Detroit's four-run fourth as the Tigers improved to 8-2 against the Indians this season and 34-14 since the start of 2013.

Detroit has won 15 of the last 18 against Cleveland.

Cabrera walked twice, once with the bases loaded, singled twice and remained a mystery to Cleveland pitchers. He's batting .649 (24 of 37) with five homers and 16 RBI against the Indians this year.

Victor Martinez followed the fourth-inning walk to Cabrera with a two-run single to make it 6-3.

Blaine Hardy (3-1) replaced starter Kyle Ryan in the fourth and pitched 2 1/3 hitless innings.

Twins 13, White Sox 2

In Minneapolis, Kennys Vargas went 4 for 4 with a three-run homer and four RBI, rookie Byron Buxton had three hits in his first time batting leadoff in the majors, and Minnesota trounced Chicago.

Joe Mauer homered to start a five-run fourth against starter John Danks (3-8), and Eduardo Nunez punctuated the inning with a two-out, two-run shot. The rally was fueled by a throwing error on shortstop Alexei Ramirez, whose attempt to start a double play sailed into right field.

Brian Dozier added a two-run homer in the eighth for the Twins, who are 8-3 against the White Sox this season while outscoring them 70-28.

by Castro and a run-scoring double by Jose Altuve.

Altuve, the All-Star second baseman, returned to the lineup and was 1 for 3 after missing the previous four games because of a right hamstring strain. In the third inning, he sent a towering fly to the short fence in the right-field corner, where Kole Calhoun reached over and easily took a home run away from him.

Astros lefty Brett Oberholtzer allowed two runs, four hits and four walks in his sixth start of a season that has been detoured twice by blisters on his index finger.

Pujols gave the Angels a 2-1 lead in the fifth, driving a 1-2 pitch into the rock pile just to the right of the center-field trees after a two-out walk to Mike Trout. It was the first homer allowed this season by

Oberholtzer in 28 innings to that point.

Pujols hit another two-out homer in the seventh off righty Josh Fields, raising his season total to 23 and his career total to 543 - five behind Mike Schmidt for 15th place.

The three-time NL MVP has 15 homers in his last 24 games. His 50th career multihomer game raised his career total against Houston to 48, breaking a tie with Hank Aaron for the most by any player against Astros pitching.

After striking out the side in the first inning on 16 pitches, Oberholtzer escaped a bases-loaded jam in the second.

Cubs 4, Dodgers 2

In Chicago, Kris Bryant connected twice for his first career multihomer game, and the Chicago Cubs beat Clayton Kershaw and the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 on Monday night.

Bryant hit a two-run drive in the third inning and a solo shot in the eighth. Matt Szczur had a solo homer against Kershaw after being promoted from Triple-A Iowa before the game for his fourth stint of the season with Chicago.

The two homers off Kershaw (5-5) ran his total for the year to 11, two more than he allowed all of last season while becoming the NL MVP.

The Cubs got terrific work from five relievers after Tsuyoshi Wada departed in the third due to cramping in his left shoulder. Center fielder Dexter Fowler was replaced in the fifth after he sprained his left ankle.

Travis Wood (4-3) pitched 3 1/3 innings for the win. Jason Motte allowed Joc Pederson's 19th homer in the ninth before

finishing for his second save on his 33rd birthday.

Royals 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Joe Blanton pitched six-plus innings of two-hit ball, Alcides Escobar had three hits and the Kansas City Royals beat the Seattle Mariners 4-1 on Monday night.

Blanton (2-0) struck out seven and worked into the seventh inning before being lifted after allowing a leadoff double.

Kelvin Herrera, Wade Davis and Greg Holland all pitched one inning of relief. Holland earned his 14th save in 15 opportunities.

Felix Hernandez (10-4) took the loss after allowing four runs, nine hits and a walk in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out five.

Escobar had three singles, drove in a run and scored a run. Mike Moustakas had two hits including an RBI double.

Blue Jays 8, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Jose Bautista hit his 15th homer during a four-run sixth inning and Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

Jose Reyes and Dioner Navarro also homered for the Blue Jays, who are 2-6 against Tampa Bay this season.

Bautista's leadoff shot against Matt Andriese (2-2) broke a 3-all tie. Reliever Ronald Belisario gave up the other three runs in the inning that included an RBI double by Chris Colabello.

Drew Hutchison (7-1) allowed three runs and nine hits over five taxing innings. He struck out six, walked two and hit a batter during a 109-pitch outing.

Down 8-5, the Rays loaded the bases with one out in the

Spieth a young man with a keen sense of history

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Wash. (AP)—Jordan Spieth loves golf history, which is appropriate for someone quickly becoming part of it.

Spieth was a freshman at Texas when he first went to St. Andrews with the rest of the Walker Cup team. They played the Old Course, soaked up the vibe at the home of golf and then headed north for their matches at Royal Aberdeen.

"It's one of my favorite places in the world," Spieth said Sunday evening. "I remember walking around the R&A clubhouse and seeing paintings of royalty playing golf, and it was dated 14-whatever. I'm thinking, our country was discovered in 1492 and they were playing golf here before anyone even knew the Americas existed."

That was only four years ago, when not many outside golf circles knew Spieth. He'll get more attention next time he arrives at St. Andrews.

The 21-year-old Texan, who slipped into a green jacket in April, hoisted the silver U.S.

Open trophy Sunday at Chambers Bay.

Not since Tiger Woods in 2002 has anyone won the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year, and it gets even more impressive to hear the short list of players who have: Jack Nicklaus. Arnold Palmer. Ben Hogan twice. Craig Wood.

Elite company? Sure, and there's more.

The last guy to win the U.S. Open by one shot with a birdie on the final hole? That would be Bobby Jones in 1926. The only other

player to win different major championships before turning 22? A guy named Gene Sarazen in 1922.

The names kept right on coming, and Spieth listened to them with a gleam in his blue eyes and the gold medal draped around his neck.

"I didn't think that those names would be mentioned like that," he said after his one-shot victory over hard-luck Dustin Johnson and hard-charging Louis Oosthuizen. "That's a piece of golf history, and as a golf historian, that's

very special and it gives me goose bumps. It's amazing. And it gets better every week with our team. Those names are the greatest that have ever played the game, and I don't consider myself there.

"But I'm certainly off to the right start in order to make an impact on the history of this game."

When Spieth gets to Scotland this time, he'll face massive pressure as he pursues something none of those historic names ever won: the Grand Slam.

"I'm just focused on the claret jug now," he said. "The Grand Slam is something that I never could really fathom somebody doing, considering I watched Tiger win when he was winning whatever percentage of the majors he played in. And he won the Tiger Slam, but he never won the four in one year. And I figured if anybody was going to do it, it would be him, which he still can."

For all major champions, it takes time for the magnitude to sink in. This might take even longer considering how it ended.



Time for Brady to present his case in suspension appeal



NEW YORK (AP) — When Tom Brady's appeal hearing kicks off Tuesday, key arguments will be about who ordered his four-game suspension and whether science supports the league's findings about deflated footballs.

The NFL says Commissioner Roger Goodell authorized the discipline that was imposed by league executive Troy Vincent, who signed the letters sent to Brady and the New England Patriots informing them of the penalties. The NFL Players Association challenged Vincent's power to issue punishment, citing Article 46 of the league's collective bargaining agreement.

"You have no authority to impose discipline on Mr. Brady under the CBA, and such discipline must therefore be set aside," union attorney Tom DePaso wrote to Vincent on May 14. "The CBA grants the Commissioner—and only the Commissioner—the authority to impose conduct detrimental discipline on players."

Goodell dismissed the union's claim when he declined to recuse himself from hearing the appeal on June 23.

"I did not delegate my disciplinary authority to Mr. Vincent; I concurred in his recommendation and authorized him to communicate to Mr. Brady the discipline imposed under my authority as Commissioner," Goodell said in his letter to the union on June 2. "The identity of the person who signed the disciplinary letter is irrelevant."

Brady was suspended four games and the Patriots were fined \$1 million and docked a pair of draft picks after investigator Ted Wells found that the Super Bowl champions illegally used under-inflated footballs in the AFC title game.

Vincent has issued several fines and penalties for various infractions since replacing Ray Anderson as the NFL's executive vice president of football operations in March 2014.

He suspended former Redskins safety Brandon Meriweather two games last September for a helmet-to-helmet hit on a receiver. In several other cases, he fined teams or punished team officials for violating rules.

The NFLPA didn't question Vincent's authority in those incidents but it only gets involved when players are disciplined.

Goodell issued punishments

Teams start arriving for regionals

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Competing teams in the 2015 Asia-Pacific-Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Baseball Regional Tournament started arriving on Saipan in time for Friday's opening at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

First to arrive was Guam's Juniors squad, which only took an hour trip and arrived at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport at 3:30am. Next was the Junior league team from Australia at 7am, while

the Big Leaguers from the Philippines were scheduled to arrive at 2:40pm. Hong Kong's Juniors and Seniors division teams are scheduled to touch down tomorrow at 1:50am. All teams will be billeted at the Mango Resort.

Other teams—Chinese-Taipei's Junior and Big league squads, Guam's Senior and Big league crews, and the Junior and Senior delegations of the Philippines—are also expected to arrive on Thursday. Their meals, starting on Friday, will be provided by

to Greg Hardy, Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice in recent, high-profile cases involving players violating the league's personal conduct policy. The league doesn't consider Brady's case similar because it involved rules of the game.

Auntie Mag's (breakfast and dinner) and Herman's Modern Bakery (for lunch). The organizing committee will also provide mobile phones to 14 teams for coordination.

The press box will be reserved only for tournament officials and statisticians, while an additional tent will be set up for the media that will be covering the regional tournament.

After Friday's opening ceremony, the CNMI and Guam will play in the first game (Big League) of the tournament at 3pm.

couraged to attend the meeting, which is in pursuant of the 2015 Little League Baseball and Softball Operating Manual.

For more information, call Guerrero at 287-4620 or A.J. Murig at 9890640. (*Little League*)

SIDEBAR

CNMI Little League district admin election

The CNMI District Little League will hold its election for the district administrator post on July 3 at 1pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Anyone who is interested in

seeking the CNMI district administrator post must first submit a letter of intent and resume to election chairman Robert Guerrero no later than the start of the meeting on July 3.

Interested individuals are en-

don't wait for the ball to come to you," Koo said during a huddle at the end of the first half of the scrimmage.

Koo and Tang are working on the group's defense double time, as the CNMI Women's All-Star Team will be up against three high-caliber squads in Hong Kong. The Commonwealth bets will be playing against Singapore National Women's A Team, South China Agricultural University Women's Football Club, and a selection

CNMI

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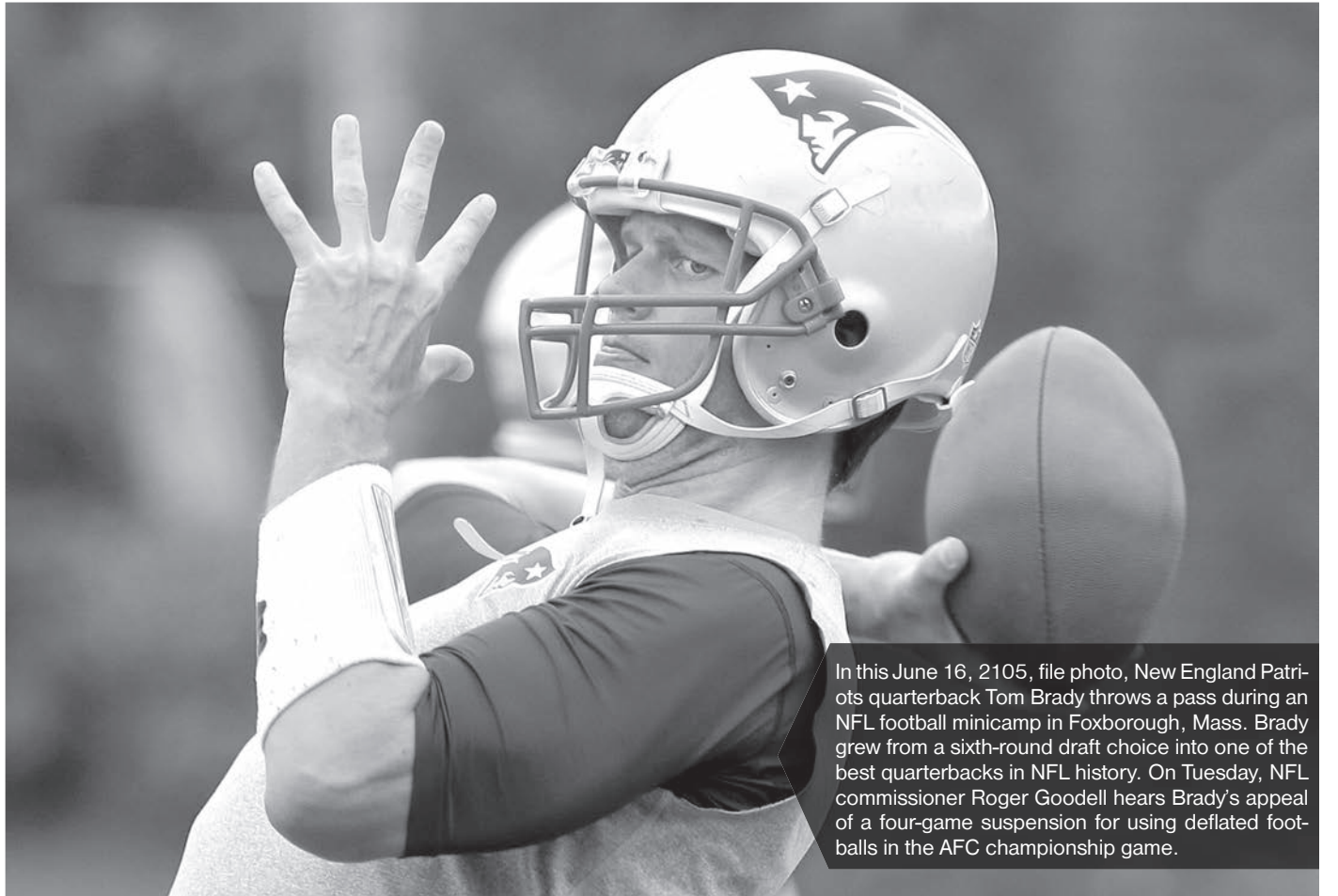
fense against the much younger and faster U14 pool. Koo also pointed out plays while officiating the scrimmage and let some of his players switched positions to test their adaptability to changes.

"It's not yet Christmas so do not give them gifts (goals). We have to work on our defense together and fight for every possession. Go after the ball and

from Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong).

The four teams will be competing in a round-robin format with the top finisher winning the Cup. The 2015 Luen Thai Cup will be held in celebration of Luen Thai's 50th anniversary.

Meanwhile, the second batch of players from the CNMI Women's All-Star Team will also have a chance to train in Hong Kong as they will stay in the former British colony for several days after the tournament concludes.



In this June 16, 2105, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws a pass during an NFL football minicamp in Foxborough, Mass. Brady grew from a sixth-round draft choice into one of the best quarterbacks in NFL history. On Tuesday, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell hears Brady's appeal of a four-game suspension for using deflated footballs in the AFC championship game.

NMSF 10K fun run this Saturday



Northern Marianas Sports Foundation's inaugural 10-kilometer fun run will hit the road this Saturday.

The race will start and end at Micro Beach with the turnaround point across Ladera Center along Beach Road and is a fundraising event with

proceeds going to CNMI athletes and Northern Marianas Sports Association's bid on improving all sports facilities in the Commonwealth.

Registration is still open and will continue until the day of the event, beginning at 5:15am. Race time is at 6am. Registration fee is \$10 for the open division and \$7 for runners

in the U15 age group. Prizes will be given to the winners of various age groups, while a raffle will also take place after the run. Registration forms are available at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For more information, call 235-5853 or email Kurt Barnes at dr.kurtbarnes@rocketmail.com. (*Saipan Tribune*)

ASPAC

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to learn. She usually plays at shortstop or second base."

Team Saipan completed a three-game sweep of Rota in the 2015 CNMI District Tournament over the weekend to earn the right of representing the Commonwealth to the regionals. It became a best-of-five series between Saipan and Rota, as Tinian begged off after failing to come up with a team.

Saipan needed an impressive pitching job from closer Zach Camacho in squeezing out a 5-4 win in Game 1 that went into extra innings. Team Saipan was

leading 4-1 when Rota tied it at 4-4 at the top of the fourth. Saipan scored at the top of the seventh and Camacho blanked Rota at the bottom to seal the win.

Camacho shared pitching duties with Kyle Kapileo, but the former was again the closer in Saipan's 7-0 shutout win in the second game. J.P. Celis and Orren Cruz were the pitchers in Game 3 where Saipan cruised to a 19-8 triumph for a sweep.

"Rota has improved a lot. Give them two or three years and they will be more competitive. There were even three players who were really aggressive and they really wanted to win," said Flores.

"Rota came prepared and they had a game plan that's why it was really close in the first game. They are peaking and given the proper training they will be more competitive," Flores added.

The CNMI Little League All-Stars will resume practice at 4:30pm on Thursday and Flores and coaches Tomas A. Camacho and Michael A. Cruz will be using the Dandan field.

"It's almost the regional tournament for the Junior, Senior, and Big League. We don't want the team to be distracted and watch the games instead of practicing so we might use the field up in Dandan," said Flores.

TSUNAMI

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group for registering 31:10. In the girls U10, Ayumi Obligation posted a winning time of 35:10, while fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmers Kathrine Illahi and Angel De Jesus prevailed in the 13 to 15 and 16 to 18 divisions after tallying 33:52 and 29:23, respectively.

In the other age groups, the winners were as follows: men's 19 to 29's Harry CHpi (28:29), 30 to 39's Shinji Takayama (32:17), men's 40 to 49's Hiroshi Tanaka (33:16), women's 40 to 49's Haruko Furugori

(39:28), 50 to 59's Motoko Kubo (30:28), and women's over 60's Takachi (30:59).

Meanwhile, two other races took place last weekend with Takako Ishizuka and Yayoi Kabata winning the 500m course and 1.5K (without flippers) after clocking in at 11:00 and 24:48, respectively.

Ishizuka won over Mayumi Hinata (14:00), Reiko Kurashima (14:49), Aiko Miyajima (15:28), and Yaeko Ogane (15:28). Kabata, on the other hand, finished ahead of Sato Mato (30:55), Claire Derey (32:14), Hiromi Matsuki (32:52), and Masayuki Hinata (37:51).

Over 50 swimmers joined the weekend tournament, which was organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan and supported by McDonald's Saipan, Detry Pumping Service, Saipan Advertising, Pacific Development Inc., Department of Public Safety, Boating Safety/EMS, Emma Perez, Peter Perez, Mobby's, Tusa Reef Tourer by Tabata, Gull, Super VAAM, Bism, SAS, Marine Diving, Northern Marianas Diving Operators Association, Let's Go! Tour, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Saipan World Resort.

HANMI: Serving the community through the years

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

For 30 years, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands has helped the community through various charity works and donations with different organizations.

Quite a number of organizations, schools, and other cause-oriented groups have been the recipients of assistance from HANMI.

"They are too many to mention. We've helped different organizations fund their proj-

ects," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* during last Saturday's awards banquet of the 14th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

"HANMI has been doing this every year and we will continue to do it in the coming years," she added.

The Mayor's Office, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, the Marianas Visitors

Authority, the Man'amko Center, and the Taste of the Marianas are some of the recipients of HANMI's donations this year.

Meanwhile, tournament director Das Krishnan said he still needs two more days to finish closing the books and determine the total money raised during the annual golf event.

"The HANMI board meets and it decides which organizations and activities would receive assistance," said Krishnan in a separate interview.



Jack Diaz, right, celebrates after receiving his cash prize from HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, center, and tournament director Das Krishnan. Diaz placed third with a 71.40 score.



HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, left, congratulates Kim Gap Soo, who finished second with a 70.20 score.



Jin Feng Chun, right, displays the \$500 cash prize he received from HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh after placing second in the championship event with a 75.



Lorraine Babauta, center, smiles after finishing fifth overall and becoming the top female golfer with her 71.80 net score.



Tom Tebuteb, right, receives the prize from HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh on behalf of Blackjack double peoria champion Manny Mangarero.

Club Lao president and golf instructor Jun Park ruled the championship course of the HANMI Golf Classic, while Manny Mangarero, with his

69.80 score, topped the Blackjack double Peoria event.

A total of 140 golfers joined last weekend's tournament and cash and other prizes were giv-

en to the first to 10th finishers, as well as the individuals who placed 20th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, 80th, 90th, 100th, and 110th.



Alex Tudela, right, receives a bottle of 12-year-old Chivas Regal as a special prize for placing 30th in last Saturday's HANMI Golf Classic. He also won a certificate for one night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan's suite and a brunch at Aqua Resort Club, which were given away in celebration of HANMI's 30th anniversary.



Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, right, gets his in third place prize in the championship course.



**Morgan, Lloyd
score in US
victory over
Colombia**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI faces tough challenge in ASPAC

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

CNMI Little League All-Star manager Joe Flores knows that they will be facing a daunting task as they bid to return to the Little League Baseball World Series this year in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Flores' players will take the final step in their attempt to make it to the World Series when they represent the Commonwealth in the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament from July 13 to 21 in Guilin, China. The CNMI Little League All-Stars are composed of Saipan players, who beat Rota in the district tournament last weekend.

"The ultimate goal is the World Series but we know that it will not be easy. We will face a lot of tough competition in China," Flores said in an interview yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We need to continue practicing various defensive drills and increase our playing techniques since we are going up against the top teams in the region. We have to win in China in order for us to return to the World Series," he added.

It has been eight years since the CNMI last reached the World Series, making an appearance in the annual

JON PEREZ
Team CNMI, composed of the Saipan All-Star squad, pose for a group photo moments after arriving at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport yesterday afternoon.

tournament in 2006 when Asia and the Pacific were still separate regions. The CNMI were the Pacific representatives, while Japan carried Asia. The CNMI were also the Pacific representatives in 2004, as they ended Guam's three-year reign from 2001 to 2003.

Chinese-Taipei topped the tournament the following year where Asia and Pacific were combined into one region. Guam went to South Williamsport in 2008, while Chinese-Taipei reigned from 2009 to 2013 with South Korea breaking the streak last year.

The CNMI aims to return to the World Series with a female player, Kiana Aldan, on its roster—a first in the



history of the Commonwealth's Little League baseball.

"This is the first time that the CNMI has a female player on its roster. Other teams have already done it, having a female player, but this will be the first time for CNMI," said Flores. "Kiana is an excellent player and she's willing

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CNMI Women's All-Stars continue training in HK

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The first batch of the CNMI Women's All-Star Team left for Hong Kong last Monday and will continue their

training there in preparation for next month's 2015 Luen Thai Cup.

The group is led by goalies Chevy Kate Alipio and Carla Ballesteros. Guinevere Borja, Lyka Sally, siblings Jeralyn and Jeraldine Castillo, Dianne

Pablo, and Renita Fleming also joined the trip, while Mae Ito, Alexandria Vergara, Angelica

Mia Carreon, Chloe Salvosa, De Jana Muna, Diana Maniacop, Elaine Enriquez, Jennifer Perena, Krizel Tuazon, Sara Allen, and Lalaine Pagarao remain on Saipan and will leave on July 6.

The initial group was expected to start its training session at the Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) facility yesterday, while the remaining players of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-backed squad will continue their workout with head coach Luam Khen Koo and his assistant Jimmy Tang at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Practice sessions are being held five times a week and on some days, the selected group is training in the morning and afternoon to drum up its preparation for the Luen Thai Cup, which will run from July 7 to 9. The group also had scrimmages with the CNMI U14 Boys National training pool at the Oleai pitch last Wednesday and Saturday.

In the Saturday scrimmage, the CNMI Women's All-Star Team got some tough love from Koo, as he pressed the group to intensify its de-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Women's All-Star Team's Alexandria Vergara, left, and a member of the U14 training pool chase the ball down the sideline during a scrimmage last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Tsunami Saipan members dominate Plumeria Swim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tsunami Saipan owned the 1st Annual Plumeria Swim with the club's swimmers taking top honors in last Saturday's race at Pau Pau Beach.

Kaito Yanai, a senior member of the group, was the overall first place finisher in the 1.5-kilometer flipper swim, completing the two-lap course in 23:54. Yanai's fellow Tsunami Saipan swimmer, Takumi Sugie, came in at close second, as the latter also broke the 24-minute barrier with a time of 23:55. Mark Maestro, also of Tsunami Saipan, rounded out the

Top 3 winners in the men's division after submitting 26:10.

In the women's division, Angel Marie Tan was third overall and first in her category after checking in at 24:59. Tan finished ahead of Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran and Kyona Rivera, who reached the shore together and timed in at 27:26. Aika Watanabe completed the Top 3 after logging 28:28.

Five other Tsunami Saipan swimmers topped their respective junior division age groups with Isaiah Aleksenko ruling the boys U10 division after recording 28:57 and Nelson Batallones winning the 11 to 12 age

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Participants in the 1st Annual Plumeria Swim head out to the course during last Saturday's race at Pau Pau Beach.